# Modern Times,

OR, THE

ADVENTURES

OF

GABRIEL OUTCAST.

SUPPOSED TO BE

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

IN IMITATION OF GIL BLAS.

QUI CAPIT, ILLE FACIT. *Prov.*

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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# ADVERTISEMENT.

IT may be neceſſary in this age of ſlander and detraction, for the writer of the following novel to declare, that, in the characters here drawn, he has pointed at no particular perſon, his view being merely to lay before the riſing generation the arts and deceptions of the generality of mankind. He is very ſenſible that there are in all claſſes of life, men of honour and reſpectability; but it muſt be allowed, at the ſame time, that there are not wanting men of the reverſe diſpoſition. It is a matter of lamentation that there are too many of them in the world, and by expoſing them to

the eye of the incautious, the author flatters himſelf, he is doing as laudable an act, as pointing out to the unwary a pit artfully concealed to entrap them.

Some readers may poſſibly be acquainted with one anecdote, and ſome with another here told, they being facts of notoriety; be that as it may, if they ſerve to elucidate, or give a colouring to the ſubject they are upon, there can be no more impropriety in introducing them, than in repeating a good and well-timed ſtory in a large company, becauſe ſome one in that company may have heard it before.

# MODERN TIMES.

## CHAPTER I.

*Introduction. Our Author loſes his Parents, and leaves Home.*

FROM an opinion that a recital of my adventures through life may be uſeful to ſociety, I have been induced to give them to the world; and flatter myſelf that if they have not a tendency to make men philoſophers, they, at leaſt, will teach them worldly knowledge, and ſhew them, that he is the richeſt and happieſt of mortals, whoſe reſources are within himſelf, and who depends leaſt upon the aſſiſtance of others.

Who my parents were, is, indeed, very immaterial, but it may be neceſſary to ſay, that I am the only child of a very reſpectable, though not very opulent couple. My father's name was Wilbraham; he was deſcended from the younger branch of a good family; and though his eſtate in the county of Nottingham did not exceed one hundred pounds a year, pride of blood prevented his putting me out to any trade, but made him ambitious of bringing me up, as he called it, a *Gentleman*. One hundred a year was a ſcanty pittance to encourage ſuch notions; but he lived, as half the world does, upon expectation; looked forward to the death of an uncle, mortgaged his little patrimony to keep up appearances, and died, as the common phraſe is, ſome hundreds of pounds worſe than nothing. The only advantage I received from him was a tolerable education, acquired at a grammar-ſchool in

in the neighbourhood. As he could not afford me a horſe, nor any of thoſe rural indulgencies, which young gentlemen are taught to expect, I was under the neceſſity of ſeeking my amuſement at home, and I have bleſſed myſelf ſince a thouſand times, in that neceſſity. Being fond of ſtudy, I became maſter of the Claſſicks, and the vicar of the pariſh, who profeſſed to have my intereſt much at heart, furniſhed me with the loan of ſuch books as he thought would improve my mind, and which our circulating library did not poſſeſs. By the time I was nineteen, I became, through theſe means, a tolerable proficient in hiſtory and the *belles lettres*, and was thought to be a pretty good ſcholar; nor did I want the outward accompliſhments of a gentleman. My father took care I ſhould learn to dance, and the fencing-maſter who attended at the ſchool where I was bred, finding me, as he

was pleaſed to ſay, an active well-made young man, gave me, voluntarily, a ſufficient number of leſſons on the ſmall ſword, to enable me to defend myſelf, was I ever attacked in that way. This, added to a natural gaiety of temper, led me into the good graces of many; and had he left me his little eſtate unincumbered, I ſhould have paſſed through life without any difficulty. As it is, few men have experienced a greater viciſſitude of fortune, or more embarraſſments. My father caught the ſmall-pox, and my mother, who loved him too tenderly to quit the houſe, though ſhe never had that diſorder, imprudently buſied herſelf about him, caught the infection, and I was thus deprived of both my parents at once; ſhe fell a ſacrifice to the diſtemper a few days after my father, and they were both buried in one grave.

With the aſſiſtance of my good friend the vicar, I ſoon looked round me, and found

found I had nothing to depend on but myſelf; the mortgagees ſeized the eſtate, which, owing to the decreaſe of land in value, was barely ſufficient to pay the money borrowed; and the caſh into which his furniture and other things were converted, was divided among his creditors, and did not pay more than twelve ſhillings in the pound; ſo that had not the vicar felt for my ſituation, I ſhould not have known how to have acted. Application was made to my father's uncle, but to no manner of purpoſe. His anſwer was, " I had been brought up " a *Gentleman*, and he ſhould *now* ſee " how I could make out upon the pro- " feſſion: he had never been conſulted " upon my education, and was deter- " mined not to give me a ſhilling: I " might apply to my mother's rela- " lations (who by the by were not " in a ſituation to aſſiſt me): he deſired " never to hear any thing of me."

In ſhort, had it not been for the humanity of the vicar, who procured me a collection of fifty pounds among the neighbouring gentry, and who took me into his houſe, till my father's affairs were adjuſted, I might have been turned out a vagrant. To him I am indebted for the firſt good office I experienced, and I am ſure it was diſintereſted.—The God of Compaſſion taught him mercy,—and he practiſed it where he could.

The next ſtep he took, was to find a ſituation to place me in. He had a brother who kept a ſchool in the neighbourhood of London, to him he applied, and prevailed on him to take me in as an aſſiſtant. Part of my money was expended in equipping me with neceſſaries, and on the eve of my departure, which was ſoon after, on counting my wealth, I found myſelf poſſeſſed of three ten pound bank notes, and five pounds fifteen ſhillings in caſh; more money

money than I ever was maſter of, and of which I ſimply thought I never ſhould ſee the end. My good friend adviſed me to huſband it to the utmoſt, and with this view I took a place to London on the roof of the coach; but that no future ſituation of mine might hurt the pride of my father's family, I changed my name, and called myſelf, *Gabriel Outcaſt.*

## CHAP. II.

*He travels towards London. Obſervations on Innkeepers, Pedlars, and Stage Coachmen.*

THE firſt day's journey paſſed tolerably well. It was fine weather, and I had a companion on the roof, an itinerant pedlar. The paſſengers within were, a footman and two maid ſervants of a Nottinghamſhire Baronet, an outrider to a tradeſman in London, and a ſmuggler; ſo that in point of company I thought myſelf as happy without, as I ſhould have been within. The only knowledge I could gather from the pedlar, was ſome part of the myſteries of his profeſſion: he took a great deal of pains to perſuade me he was a raſcal; ſuch as that, under a tra-

a travelling licence, and the idea of ſelling things cheap, the articles he dealt in were of the worſt kind, and generally damaged, for which he got the beſt price, and very often ſold goods to the ignorant and unwary, thirty per cent. dearer than they could be bought for of the fair dealer. However, I had nothing to do with him; as I did not ſet up for a corrector of other men's conduct, I left him in the enjoyment of his iniquity, and we paſſed through the day as ſociable as beggars generally are; for I determined on my firſt outſet, to bring my mind, if poſſible, to a conformity with the humility of any ſituation I might be thrown into. But, notwithſtanding my philoſophy, I found myſelf rather hurt at the cloſe of day. Though riding on the roof of the coach, I conſidered myſelf, from family, from education, from property, much ſuperior to thoſe within; but *my* thinking ſo did not

lead the landlord of the inn where we were to ſleep, and his wife, to think the ſame. I found a manifeſt difference between riding *without*, and riding *within*. The pedlar, accuſtomed to ſuch travelling, took his place inſtantly on alighting, in the corner of the kitchen chimney; but on my engaging the attention of the chambermaid, to whom I addreſſed myſelf very civilly, ſhe was ſoon routed by her miſtreſs, with a "I wiſh to God, Betty, you'd "leave that fellow, and attend to the "inſide paſſengers." It was in vain for me to plead a head-ache, and a wiſh to be ſhewn to my chamber. She told me, that ſhe had no beds but for the gentlemen and ladies that came in the coach, and that I muſt turn into the loft or the ſtable. In vain did Betty argue in my favour, in vain did ſhe ſay, that I and the *gentleman* in the chimney-corner, meaning the pedlar, might lie together in the ſpare garret;

nothing

nothing would do, till I pulled out my purſe, and aſked her to change me a ten pound note: for one of the notes I had lodged in my purſe, the others were ſafe ſtowed in my trunk. The naming of a ten pound note altered her tone, ſhe "begged my pardon for not "being able to attend to me in the "hurry ſhe was in; but that if I "could diſpenſe with lying at the "top of the houſe with my fellow-"traveller, the bed was a good one, "and it ſhould be clean ſheeted." I was too fatigued, and too much ſhaken with my journey, to be very nice about my lodging; I could have ſlept upon the boards. I told her, "I would get "ſomething warm to drink, ſettle the "matter with my fellow-traveller, and "when the chamber-maid had waited "on the coach *gentry*, I would be "ſhewn to my room." Finding the benefit I derived from the naming a bank note, I began again to diſplay my

wealth, in order to get conſequence at the fire-ſide,—and I diſcovered, that it not only procured me the warmeſt place, but the attention of the whole kitchen. A butcher in the further corner obſerved to me, "he had known "*gem'men* ride upon the roof of the "coach through choice; for his part he "never rode any where elſe; it was "pleaſanter, and he could *nater* the "country." In ſhort, after a few ceremonies about place were adjuſted, and a few coals laid on, we preſently became acquainted, and the ſtate of the nation was debated. The butcher ſaid, "the miniſter was a man of his "own *kidney*, that he handled a *knife* "well, and got to the bottom of a "*wound* at once; did not ſtand nig-"gling as ſome of our ſtateſmen do, but "when he *cut*, cut at a ſingle ſtroke, and "chopped off every unneceſſary part of "the conſtitution at a blow:" "Yes, "yes," ſays an exciſeman, who ſat oppoſite

poſite to him, "he *does* cut with a "vengeance; I am ſure I have reaſon "to ſay ſo, for he has cut *me* out of a "vote for the county, and now in all "probability I may loſe my place." "And no harm," replies the butcher, "if you was. D— me, it would be "happy for this country, if there "wasn't an exciſeman in it. We "ſhould then have our beer at half "price." "Doubtleſs;" returns the exciſeman, "rogues would be then "triumphant." Finding the converſation grow warm, I conſulted the pedlar, and we retired to our chamber; we paid our reckoning, however, firſt; for the landlady told us, it was cuſtomary for all outſide paſſengers to pay for their beds before they ſlept in them, as it ſaved a world of trouble in the morning; and it was lucky for me that this cuſtom was complied with; for my diſplay of my money at the fire-ſide had ſo faſcinated the attention of the pedlar, that

that he thought proper to riſe an hour before the coach ſet off, and make free with my purſe and its contents, which lay in my breeches pocket, on the chair beſide me; but which, from the ſound ſleep I was in, I was inſenſible of his taking. All I know is, that having paid my reckoning the night before, I had no occaſion for money in the morning, and never miſſed it, till I wanted to pay for my breakfaſt; and that the pedlar had taken it, was beyond a doubt, as he was ſeen to leave the inn with his wallet before the coachman was viſible, and had not, though he had taken his place for London, paid any part of his fare. As we ought to make the beſt of misfortunes, like the philoſopher, who having broke his leg, rejoiced that it was not his neck, I conſoled myſelf in not having loſt my trunk, that having been committed to the care of the coachman, in which the remainder of my money

was

was ſtowed, and of which I determined to be more careful.

We had now no one on the outſide but the coachman and myſelf, whom I addreſſed in his own way, and whom a glaſs of brandy or gin at every village where he ſtopped, had made very eloquent and communicative. "This "will be a d-mned poor journey for "me," ſays he, "nobody without, "and none but beggars within!"—for I found his attention was always engroſſed with what he ſhould get upon the road. I aſked him, if he was not paid by his maſter? "Yes, by G-d," ſays he, "after a manner,—twelve "ſhillings a week,—which will ſcarce "find me in gin and tobacco. If it "was not now and then for a generous "paſſenger, we coachmen might ſtarve. "'Tis true we get a ſhilling or two "occaſionally, by a ſhort paſſenger, or "for the carriage of a parcel that is "not booked, but that's a poor pittance

"in

" in theſe hard times." On my obſerving to him, that theſe occaſional ſhillings were, in my opinion, the property of his maſter: " Are they, " ſays he, " then the devil may drive his coach " for me—No no, maſter, we don't " ſtand all weathers, late and early, for " twelve ſhillings a week; I have " known coachmen get three guineas, " and richly deſerve it too."—" But " not honeſtly?"—" Yes, honeſtly. " My coach carries four, and if I now " and then pick up a fifth upon the " road, how is he the worſe for it?" In ſhort, as it is in vain to diſpute with a man againſt his intereſt, I dropped the argument, and contented myſelf with general topics, till we arrived at the inn, where we were to breakfaſt, and where I firſt diſcovered the friendlineſs of my laſt night's bed-fellow, who, finding me embarraſſed, as he thought, with too much money, was kind enough to eaſe me of part of it.

However,

However, as I knew not his name, and he was a ſtranger to the houſe where we lodged, I could do no otherwiſe than reconcile myſelf to the loſs, have recourſe to my trunk, and ſupply my pocket afreſh. Nothing of any conſequence happened in the remainder of the day; I was ſet down at Highgate, five miles ſhort of London, where the vicar's brother reſided; and as I tipped the coachman a ſhilling, I had his bleſſing at parting; ſo eaſy is it to procure the good wiſhes of theſe blades of the whip!

## CHAP. III.

*Our Author becomes Uſher at a School. Remarks on Schoolmaſters. Quits his Situation.*

DR. SLASHEM, the vicar's brother-in-law, to whom I was recommended, received me at his door with apparent civility, but ſoon gave me to underſtand that he had reckoned without his hoſt, when he propoſed taking an aſſiſtant. His ſchool was but of late eſtabliſhment, two ſcholars had left him the day before, and he had no greater number than he could attend to himſelf; however, out of reſpect to his broter, he would contrive to give me houſe-room, till I could find a ſituation to my liking; and as he underſtood I was not able to afford great things, provided I would occaſionally aſſiſt him in ſchool-hours, I ſhould not pay for my lodging

lodging and board, more than fifteen ſhillings a week. I was not ſo young but I could ſee the drift of this gentleman's civility; inſtead of paying me for my aſſiſtance, as I expected, I was to pay for my board and lodging, and give him my labour gratis; however, being a ſtranger in that part of the world, and not knowing where to go, I diſſembled in my turn, told him how much I thought myſelf obliged to him, and accepted his *friendly* offer. He introduced me to his family, which conſiſted of a wife, a daughter about ſeventeen, rather pretty than otherwiſe, and ten boys between the ages of nine and fourteen. Mrs. Slaſhem was ſome years younger than the Doctor, and ſeemed to look upon her daughter with a jealous eye, and as one who told her ſhe was growing in years. Miſs, in her turn, was of a forward caſt, and thought ſhe had more right to be noticed than her mother, who was a married woman, and in her time had had her ſhare of admirers:

in

in ſhort, I no ſooner entered, than I diſcovered that both had ſhot their arrows at me at once. "Biddy," ſays Mrs. Slaſhem, "I wiſh you'd get down "ſtairs, you ſtare at the young man, "as if you never ſaw a young man "before." "Ah, get down, you young "baggage," ſays the doctor, "and "get us ſomething nice for ſupper." Miſs ſlammed the door after her, but not without giving me to underſtand by her looks, that ſhe was angry at being ſent out of the room. Mrs. Slaſhem, primming up her mouth, pulling up her boſom, and adjuſting her features into an affected form of reſerved politeneſs, "hoped I would "excuſe the awkwardneſs of her girl, "who had ſeen but little of the world, "and had rather out-grown her age; "for though in ſize ſhe reſembled a "woman, ſhe was, in fact, little more "than a child." "Indeed, my dear," replies the Doctor, "you wrong the "girl,

" girl, for you was married at her " age." " If I was," retorts the wife angrily, and bridling up, " I hope I " had more diſcretion, and more of the " woman in me." " Diſcretion," returns the Doctor, " I will ſay no- " thing about, but as to the *woman*, I " will admit that you had always " enough of that;" giving me a wink with his left eye. " But come, the " young man, I dare ſay, will be " glad of a little refreſhment, if you " will be kind enough to provide " it." For, as I had come a long day's journey, I began to wiſh for ſupper, though it was but eight o'clock. Mrs. Slaſhem retired to provide for our repaſt, and get the boys to bed, and of courſe left me and the Doctor together. He then gave me a long detail of the difficulties he had met with in eſtabliſhing his ſchool. I told him, " that " no doubt his character had recom- " mended him, and that as he came to

" be

" be better known, his number of " ſcholars would increaſe." " Cha- " racter, my good friend," ſays he, " is the leaſt recommendation; pa- " rents, now-a-days, will put their " children out where they have the " moſt taught for the leaſt money. " In order to get a good price, ſchool- " maſters are reduced to artifice." —" Artifice!" exclaimed I, " can arti- " fice avail, where children ſhould be " kept ſtrangers to deceit?" " You " miſunderſtand me, Sir," replies the Doctor, " I mean artifice in the eſta- " bliſhment of a ſchool. I'll explain " it to you; it may be of uſe to you in " life, if you propoſe to follow the " ſame profeſſion.——Parents have an " idea, that the fewer ſcholars a man " has, the better he can attend to them, " and then of courſe he can demand " a better price. A man taking only " four boys, may expect fifty pounds " a year for each, whereas if he takes

" fourteen, he will find it difficult to " get more than twenty. After a man " has got one or two to begin with, " that he may not be ſuppoſed to want " ſcholars, he gives out, that he will " take no greater number than four,— " then, he has room for two more :— " he procures them :—he then finds " he can attend to ten, to which num- " ber he will confine himſelf; but " that is only till he can get another " ten; ſo that he never ſtops till in " fact he can *get* no more."

It is this kind of fineſſe, and not the character of the maſter, that eſtabliſhes a ſchool. Mrs. Slaſhem, likewiſe, was not without her arts: when any perſon came to make inquiries about terms, &c. ſhe was ſure to introduce one or two of the healthieſt children by way of exhibition, or the ſon of a man of ſome rank; and if it was obſerved that the child did not look *mighty* well, ſhe would turn him about,

about, give his face a freſh direction, and cry, " View him in *this* light, " there is not a healthier boy living." In ſhort, the Doctor gave me to underſtand, that by ſuch means, and by a little extra-attention and tenderneſs to ſuch boys as were the children of wealthy parents, who have it frequently in their power to recommend others, it is, that men get forward, ſooner than by any other method. Indeed, I found it was his invariable practice to wink at the faults of the boys of opulent parents, and keep up the ſtricteſt diſcipline with others, it being neceſſary to puniſh ſome as an example to the reſt: when a poor man's ſon, charged, perhaps, with robbing the garden, has endeavoured to exculpate himſelf, by diſcovering the offender, and laying the blame, juſtly, on his more wealthy, but guilty ſchoolmate, I have known the Doctor exclaim, " It is a barefaced lie,—Maſter Gold-

" wire

" wire is the ſon of a *gentleman*, and " above a baſe act, and I'll puniſh you " for the falſe aſſertion."—Then, as to the annual price of ſchooling; twenty pounds a year, the Doctor told me (which, indeed, was the price he had with *his* ſcholars) was but ſmall pay; however, what with the profits derived from ſelling the children toys, fruit, pens, paper, and other articles, at two hundred per cent. gain; getting from each boy half a guinea or a guinea at Chriſtmas, under the idea of preſents to the ſervants; taking their pocket money on their return from the holidays, under a pretence of keeping it for them, and giving them only part of it again; charging in their bills occaſionally a pair of ſhoes, a copy-book, and the like, which they never had; by ſuch ſundry emoluments he made out pretty well. And on my ſeeming to diſapprove of ſuch conduct by my looks, he told me, there was no

doing otherwiſe. It was the annual price of board and ſchooling to which parents chiefly attended. To be aſked thirty pounds a-year would frighten them, but under a notion of paying but twenty, the conſiderations he had mentioned would draw an additional twenty from them without a murmur; then, ſays he, again, we can get a guinea a quarter for dancing, as much for drawing, and fifteen ſhillings, perhaps, for writing, when in fact we pay to the different maſters only half the price we charge. If it was not for theſe arts and contrivances, a ſchoolmaſter had better be a hackney coachman, and drive mules rather than boys. In ſhort, I found from the doctrine of the pedlar, the ſtage-coachman, and this *worthy* friend of mine, that to live in the world a man muſt not be *too* honeſt. On the ſame plan of reaſoning, the Doctor would have kept me for his aſſiſtant; for he expected as much

much of me, as if he had paid me a ſalary of thirty pounds a year. I was determined, however, to get from this place as ſoon as I could; for my remaining ſtock would not admit of my paying fifteen ſhillings a week for my board. I had been now a fortnight in the family before I thought of removing, and to do juſtice to Mrs. Slaſhem and her daughter, they did every thing in their power to make my time paſs agreeably. The mother, in order to have my company abroad, would frequently deſire the Doctor to ſpare me, as it was proper, where ſhe was going, to have an eſcort, and Miſs would frequently ſteal up into my room when I was alone, play about me, and entertain me with the ſecret anecdotes of the family; from her I learned that her papa was no doctor, but had aſſumed the title in order to give credit to the ſchool; that her mama had conſtantly a gentleman came to ſee her at

ſchool-hours, when her papa was at the top of the houſe with the boys: in ſhort, ſhe told me how much her mama hated her papa, and how much ſhe deteſted them both; and that ſhe would give the world if any one would take her out of the houſe; that ſhe did not care where ſhe went, if ſhe was but from home; that her mama treated her as a girl, when ſhe knew ſhe was as much a woman as herſelf, and that ſhe was going in eighteen, and was determined not to be a great while longer in leading-ſtrings. The aſſiduous attention of the mother would perhaps have been far from diſagreeable to me, if miſs had been out of my reach; but Mrs. Slaſhem had inſiſted, a day or two after my arrival, that I ſhould be made free of the village we lived in, according to the ancient ceremonial of the place; which was, to be ſworn upon the horns, not to eat brown bread if I could get white, unleſs

leſs I liked brown better; not to put up with the maid when I could have the miſtreſs, unleſs I liked the maid better, and ſo on: and as oaths are not merely confined to the *letter*, but extend to the *ſpirit* of them, I conceived I was equally ſworn not to put up with the mother, if I could have the daughter, unleſs I liked the mother better. Indeed, ſuch was the favour I was in with both, that I was ſcarcely left to my choice, and a dread of the chapter of accidents was one principal motive for my wiſhing myſelf away. The cenſorious reader may, perhaps, ſuppoſe, that, as a young man bordering upon twenty, I was no anchorite, and that I was not ſufficient maſter of philoſophy, to withſtand a temptation thrown induſtriouſly in my way: in ſhort, he may ſuppoſe what he will,—and as I profeſs myſelf a member of the reformed church, and the neceſſity of auricular confeſſion to

be no part of my faith, I ſhall take the liberty to leave him to his conjectures, and only ſay, that for more reaſons than one, I wiſhed myſelf in any ſituation but where I was. I had an opportunity of ſeeing the newſpapers, and I looked carefully to the adverti ſements, hoping to meet with ſomething that might ſuit me. My circumſtances would not admit of my being very nice in my choice, for though I had near nineteen pounds in my pocket on my arrival at Highgate, after I had paid the coachman and the expences of the laſt day's journey, that nineteen, from a trifling preſent or two to Miſs, a few out-door treats to her mother in our afternoon walks, and what I ſhould have to pay for my board and waſhing, go as ſoon as I would, would be reduced to little more than ten pounds. This, and a wiſh for an eaſy place, determined me, if I could not do better, even to put on a livery,

livery, rather than run myſelf into difficulties, and to wait for a turn of fortune to befriend me. I did not communicate my deſign to the family, as circumſtances had made it neceſſary to conceal myſelf from them, but told them, I had a friend in London, who promiſed to look out for a ſituation to place me in; and under a pretence of going to this friend, I had an opportunity of applying, as many advertiſements directed me. To a "Wanted "a ſmart young man to attend in the "ſhop of an apothecary," I applied, and found it was to open and ſweep the ſhop, pound in the mortar, carry out medicines, and apply *gliſters*: this would not do; it was a *laborious* employ, and to labour I had not been accuſtomed. The next advertiſement that ſtruck me was, "Wanted a man of "good figure, in an eaſy genteel office, "with good encouragement:" here I enquired, and found there had been

a variety of applicants, moſt men wiſhing for good pay, and little to do. This was no other than to ſtand all day at the door of one of thoſe auctioneers, who are conſtantly ſelling things made up purpoſely to take in the ignorant and incautious, and with a vociferous voice to call out to every perſon that paſſes, "Walk in, Sir; walk in, gen-"tlemen—ſelling by auction." The abilities for this office were little more than a good pair of lungs, and the pay was two ſhillings a day; as the ſituation, however, was by no means a concealed one, I readily declined it. The next was more likely to anſwer my purpoſe: "Wanted a perſon of good "addreſs and gentleman-like appear-"ance, to attend a few hours a day in "a reſpectable employ, for which a "good ſalary would be given." The reader will naturally ſay, I had no ſmall ſhare of vanity, to attend only to ſuch advertiſements are required *ſmart-*

*neſs*,

*neſs*, *good figure*, *addreſs*, and *gentleman-like* appearance; but when he is told that both Mrs. Slaſhem and Miſs had conſtantly given me to underſtand, that I was poſſeſſed of thoſe qualities, he will not wonder at my believing it. This advertiſement ſucceeded; it was not to ſtand at the door of one of theſe auctions, but to act as a decoy during the time of ſelling, and lead perſons on to bid their money. I was to attend from eleven to three in the week days, and my pay was to be eighteen ſhillings a week. I accepted the place, and was to be initiated into my office the week following. Accordingly, I took a lodging in the neighbourhood, a two pair of ſtairs room in the ſhop of a tradeſman, for which I was to pay ſix ſhillings a week, and I was determined to make the remaining twelve anſwer every other purpoſe. Happy in this engagement, I acquainted the Doctor, that I ſhould now be no longer troubleſome

ſome to him, that I was going to America in a merchant's family, as tutor to his ſon, a lad of twelve years of age, for which I was to have a handſome ſalary. Though I had not been ſix weeks with the Doctor, I found it difficult to get away. He had conceived an *affection* for me, and rather than part with me, would take half a guinea a week. Mrs. Slaſhem uſed all her rhetoric to perſuade me to continue, and Miſs Slaſhem all her charms; but nothing would do. I had my private reaſons for leaving them, and on my promiſe to correſpond with Miſs, as occaſion ſhould offer, I was ſuffered to depart in peace. I had been brought up with proper notions of right and wrong, and could ſcarce reconcile this deception to my way of thinking; but when I conſidered the plea of neceſſity, and that ſelf-preſervation was the firſt law of nature, I was eaſily led to juſtify the proceeding. I was maſter of

of my own actions, and had not by a promiſe, made to any of the parties, forfeited a right of diſpoſing of myſelf as I thought proper.

## CHAP. IV.

*He is in a new Employ. The Iniquity of Auctions and Auctioneers. He is taken up for a Robbery. Anecdotes of a Trading Juſtice. Affecting Story of a Man long confined. His Addreſs to Inſolvent Priſoners.*

MY new employer was not a little pleaſed with my figure, he could only have wiſhed I was a few years older;—that was eaſily remedied by my mode of dreſs, and we contrived it between us, that I wore the appearance of forty. As the office I was to enter on required a few inſtructions, the following were the chief maxims he gave me: 'Always to 'watch *his* eyes, and when he looked 'full in my face, bid ſomething more 'than the laſt bidder.' 'Never to ſee 'a flaw,

'flaw, or an imperfection in any thing 'ſelling.' 'And to find out beauties, 'if poſſible, even where there are 'none.' 'To pretend to know the 'value of every thing, and aſſert in a 'confidential manner to bidders, and 'in a kind of whiſper, that the article 'ſelling was worth double the money 'bid for it.' Theſe were the inſtructions I was to follow, and I reconciled them to myſelf under the following reaſoning: that bidders at an auction buy upon their own judgment, and if they buy too dear, it is their own faults; that auctioneers are forbidden to bid themſelves, and that, of courſe, if they had not ſome friend to bid for them occaſionally, articles, at times, would not fetch half their value; that deception runs through trade in general, no tradeſman being condemnable for not pointing out the imperfections of his goods. As to any other artifices made uſe of in the profeſſion, I

was

was to have no concern with. The auctioneer, as things were not ſold by a catalogue, was at liberty to offer any article for ſale that he pleaſed; ſo that if a countryman came in, we were ſure to have a ſilver watch put up; or if a lady, ſome pieces of china, or a ſet of ſilver-handled knives and forks, and ſo on; the one, I would whiſper, was old china, and the other had *town-made* blades with the handles of *ſolid* ſilver, and no lie neither: made they were in *ſome* town; and how little ſoever the ſilver, what there was of it was ſolid. In ſhort, I diſcharged my duty ſo well as to give my employer ſatisfaction, and often procured him a better price for his goods than the firſt coſt. Our plan was not a little forwarded by the *touter* * at the door, calling

* *Touter* is a nickname given to thoſe who ſtand at ſhop-doors, and entice in cuſtomers, as butchers that cry out, *What do you buy, Sir?*

Old

calling out, 'Selling by auction un-
'der a judgment.' 'Muſt be ſold,
'Gentlemen, without reſerve, to re-
'leaſe a man from priſon,' &c. It is unknown the numbers ſuch declarations draw in to buy, under an idea of getting things at half their value; and if they are taken in, by the law of retaliation, they richly deſerve it. Sometimes our ſale, indeed, has been interrupted by a perſon contradicting the auctioneer flatly, and declaring aloud, that the article was not what he repreſented it; in this caſe, I was immediately directed to bid, and I became the buyer. This done, the company are diſmiſſed with, 'Gentle-
'men, I am much obliged to you, we
'have done ſelling for to-day.' The company of courſe withdraw, the obnoxious perſon gone, the ſtreet door is

Old clothes men in Monmouth-ſtreet, &c. *See, what you want, Sir*; and men at auctions, *Walk in, gentlemen, ſelling by auction, &c.*

ſhut

ſhut for five minutes, and then re-opened, with a 'Walk in, Gentlemen, 'ſelling by auction,' and the room is preſently filled again with freſh company; for theſe ſales are always held in ſome very public thoroughfare.

Indeed, there is ſcarce an auction of any denomination, without its impoſitions. In ſales of linen and other drapery goods, they will put ſeven or eight yards of ſilk, worth about ſix ſhillings a yard, into the ſame lot with a roll of coarſe dowlas worth ſevenpence, and ſell the two together at ſo much per yard. If you aſk how many yards in the roll, they will tell you about thirty; you make your calculation accordingly, and perhaps buy the whole at one ſhilling and ſixpence a yard, thinking thus to give about two pounds five ſhillings for the lot, which, at ſixpence per yard for the dowlas, would give you the ſilk for four ſhillings; but after having paid down the earneſt,

earneſt, and the lot is to be delivered, the roll of linen ſhall contain ſixty yards inſtead of thirty, in which caſe you pay eight ſhillings and ſixpence a yard for the ſilk, and are encumbered with more dowlas than you know what to do with. So again in auctions of furniture: the auctioneer, in order to have his ſales well attended, finds it neceſſary, not only to treat the brokers with a dinner, but to give each of them a lot at their own price; ſo that at auctions in and near London, where there are plenty of brokers, if twenty are preſent, you are ſure to have twenty lots (and perhaps the beſt of your furniture) given away. The brokers, on the other hand, have their arts of impoſing; if you appoint one to purchaſe certain lots for you at certain prices, under an idea, that they will buy them cheaper, you are ſure to be charged pretty near the price you fixed, though perhaps

perhaps they purchaſed them for half the money.

I was in this employ upwards of two months, when an accident happened that loſt me my place. During the ſelling of a plated cruet-ſtand, worth about thirty ſhillings, who ſhould come in but Dr. Slaſhem? As I was diſguiſed, he could not poſſibly know me, except I had opened my mouth, which I took care not to do. He bid a guinea and a half for it, which my maſter did not think enough; I was called upon by my looks to bid againſt him; I did it by a nod, but as the Doctor did not ſee it, he aſſerted he was the laſt bidder, the auctioneer appealed to me, but I was mute as a fiſh; and Slaſhem was the buyer; the company were diſmiſſed, and I was immediately diſcharged. But his anger did not ceaſe here; whilſt in his ſervice, I had ſold my own watch, and bought

bought rather a better, and had alſo purchaſed a pair of piſtols: the watch, which was a metal one, had been brought to him, requeſting him to ſell it, which he refuſed; I therefore purchaſed it for fifty ſhillings, and ſold my own for pretty nearly the ſame ſum. This watch was a ſtolen one, and was advertiſed, and my quondam maſter, the auctioneer, carried his reſentment ſo far, as to lay an information before a magiſtrate, that he had ſeen ſuch a watch in my poſſeſſion: a warrant was accordingly iſſued, and one evening, about ten o'clock, as I was going to bed at my lodging, I heard a great noiſe below, and a fellow with a hoarſe voice inquiring for one Gabriel Outcaſt. Conſcious of having done no wrong, I went down ſtairs, and was immediately taken into cuſtody, charged with a highway robbery. All I could ſay had but little effect. The warrant was to be executed, the watch

was

was taken out of my pocket, my room was ſearched, and the piſtols, which lay upon my table, ſeized. The little money I was poſſeſſed of I put into my pocket, and was hurried to the pariſh round-houſe, where, under lock and key, I paſſed a very uneaſy night. The next morning I was taken before a trading magiſtrate, and charged with robbing a man in the Five-Fields, Chelſea, of his watch, the Friday evening before; and though I proteſted my innocence in the ſtrongeſt terms, and made out a very good ſtory, yet, being confronted with the proſecutor, who ſwore to his property, the identical watch being found upon me, and the piſtols in my room; circumſtances were too much againſt me to get off: the only thing in my favour was, that the proſecutor could not ſwear to my perſon, as I appeared to be a younger man than the one who robbed him; not being now in my auction-dreſs: but

but then, on the other hand, the maſter of the houſe, where I lodged, depoſing, that I went abroad every day in a diſguiſe, which gave me the appearance of an elderly man, corroborated the ſuſpicion. I had ſent to the auctioneer, who could prove that the watch had been offered to him for ſale, and whoſe evidence would, of courſe, have operated in my favour; but he was induſtriouſly out of the way; and as I could not procure bail, I was committed to priſon till the next week, when I was to be brought before the juſtice again.

In the courſe of my examination, his worſhip, who, according to the vulgar phraſe, ſpoke deep London, bawled out, "Hand over that there "watch," which on looking at, he put into his pocket with a "this muſt be "produced upon the trial."—"Con-"ſtable, ſee what money the priſoner "has about him." I had two guineas and

and a few ſhillings in my pocket, which he directed to be *handed* over likewiſe, and on the proſecutor's ſaying he had loſt ſome gold, but could not ſwear to the money.—" I don't " know how you ſhould," replies the juſtice, " one guinea is too like an- " other for that; it looks, however, " like money diſhoneſtly come by, " and ſo—" putting it into his pocket, " it ſhall go with the watch." " I " humbly conceive," ſaid I, addreſſing myſelf to him, " that as the mo- " ney is not ſworn to, it ought to be " returned me." " Stop that fellow's " mouth," roared out his worſhip, " and give me his mittimus to ſign," and in an accent lower, as not wiſhing to be heard, " damn your humble " conceptions!"—I deemed it fortunate that I had ſecreted a ten pound note, all the money I had left, in my fob, where theſe graſping fangs of the law had no idea of looking.

Whilſt

Whilſt I was in priſon, I met with a man, who had been confined forty-ſeven years. He was ſhut up on an execution, at the ſuit of the crown, for a heavy fine impoſed on him, for having in his poſſeſſion ſome exciſeable goods that had not paid the duty; of courſe no inſolvent act could diſcharge him. This man, bating his imprudence that brought him there, was not without his virtues. He was the oracle and chaplain of the jail; and being a man of good ſenſe, was often a real comfort and aſſiſtance to the unhappy. He had outlived all his friends and connections, and had nothing to ſubſiſt on, but the allowance of the priſon, the ſcanty ſparings of his fellow-priſoners, almoſt as poor and wretched as himſelf, and the benevolence of a few out-door neighbours, who occaſionally ſent him a dinner, or an old coat to cover him: ſtockings he wore none, and perhaps the

the only uſeleſs part of his dreſs was a woollen nightcap, that covered his bald head, being grown grey within the walls. The little hair he had was wiry; for affliction, when it does not kill, proceeds to harden. Though covered with the ruſt of a jail, and offenſive through want of cleanlineſs, this old man approached me in ſo modeſt and decent a manner, that I could not but be pleaſed with him. He had acquired a degree of philoſophy ſince his confinement, (for what patience will not a priſon teach?) and ſeemed ſo reconciled to his ſituation, as not to wiſh for liberty. "To be abroad "again in the world," he ſaid, "to "*him*, at his time of life, would be "irkſome; he had not a friend that "could help him, and without money, "could only fly to the ſhelter of a "workhouſe." He obſerved, "that "though a priſon affords no comfort, "yet, 'there the priſoners reſt toge-
'ther;

'ther; they hear not the voice of 'the oppreſſor:' "and having pro- "portioned his appetite to the quan- "tity of food he could get, and con- "tracted his wants within very ſmall "limits, he was far from being wretch- "ed. Should it pleaſe God to take "him from the world, he was per- "fectly reſigned; but to remove him "from theſe walls, except in his cof- "fin and to his grave, would be only "to haſten his diſſolution, and put an "abrupt period to his exiſtence." And indeed, ſo much did he ſpeak the ſentiments of his ſoul, that upon an enquiry three or four years afterwards, I was informed, that the Chief Juſtice having, from the repreſentation of the keeper, and a miſtaken humanity, ordered him to be releaſed, he became truly miſerable.

He was no ſooner at liberty and without the priſon wicket, than he ſtopped ſhort, wild as it were and loſt.

The broad ſun-ſhine was painful to him. His eyes were fixed, but he could not weep. Stupefied at his change of ſituation, his legs, in ſpite of him, became as immoveable as his tongue.

Conducted by a charitable hand, he enquired the way to the place where once he lived. His houſe was there no more; a public building was erected on the ſpot. He knew neither the ſtreet, the town, nor the objects. The adjoining houſes to his own had taken a new form. He endeavoured to recollect them, but he had lived twenty years too long.

Startled, he ſtopped and ſighed, and for the firſt time felt the comfort of a jail, "where the wicked ceaſe "from troubling, and where the "weary are at reſt." Every face was new, and every thing about him ſtrange. The only perſon he could find, of whom he had the leaſt recollection,

lection, was a tottering old man, who formerly had been his ſervant; he found him in a garret, living on charity, and from having been confined to his room eighteen years, had ſtrength only to pull the cord that opened his door.

This poor creature could not at firſt recollect his maſter, whoſe face, time and afflictions had ſo much furrowed; and the only comfort his maſter drew, was, by a participation of his grief, and from a conviction, that he was not the moſt miſerable of beings. This old domeſtic entertained him only with his ſorrows; told him that his wife was dead; that he had experienced thirty years of wretchedneſs; that his children were in ſome diſtant parts of the world unknown to him, and that every friend he had was gone.

At this the maſter ſighed, and ſighed alone; for the other was habituated to diſtreſs. Broke down with grief, he

returns to his priſon, and ſolicits a re-admiſſion. It was refuſed him. And he experienced the force of woe, now more than ever. To have outlived all his relations, his friends, nay a whole generation,—in his old age,—to want a ſhelter, or money to procure one,—to be deſtitute of food and clothes and every neceſſary article—theſe were thoughts that racked him; but his greateſt diſquiet was, to be ſenſible, that a whole generation of men was at once loſt to *him*, which, by daily deaths, the maſs of mankind do not miſs. "Separated as it were from ſociety, *I* am "alive, *alone*." "Death," ſays he, "may be terrible, but to die the laſt, "is more ſo." 'Glad ſhall I be, when 'I can find the grave!'

As a bird that has been long confined, will hover round its cage uneaſy at its liberty, ſo was this man daily at the priſon wicket, importuning for admiſſion; and finding none, he pined gradually

gradually away. Grief wore him to the bone, and he fell a martyr to a broken heart.—And all this perhaps, for having in his houſe a few pounds of tea, or a canniſter of unroaſted coffee!

Whilſt I was in confinement, an inſolvent act that had lately paſſed took place, and a number of poor wretches were diſcharged. The day before, this old man took upon him to preach to them, and I think in a manner that would have done honour to the firſt clerical character. The concluſion of his diſcourſe I took down; and as it affected *me*, I have no doubt but it will have the ſame effect on *others*.

" As the greater number of you," ſays he, " will be releaſed to-morrow, " ſome from a long, and others from " a very painful confinement; though " I cannot partake of your felicity, " give me leave, my ſuffering friends, " to congratulate you on the joyful

" event. To many of you it will be
" the happieſt day of your lives. You
" will enter, as it were, into the world
" anew, free from trouble, free from
" incumbrances; and though you
" poſſeſs nothing, you will have no-
" thing to embarraſs you, and I truſt
" you will find friends to aſſiſt you,
" and reſettle you in life. As dili-
" gence and honeſty ſeldom fail to be
" crowned with ſucceſs, provided you
" *are* diligent and honeſt, I am per-
" ſuaded God will bleſs your endea-
" vours, and amply recompenſe you
" for all your ſufferings; but remem-
" ber, at the ſame time, that as it is
" God from whom we receive every
" temporal bleſſing, it is to him we
" are to apply in all our neceſſities.—
" Aſk then proviſion daily with a grate-
" ful heart, and you will neither want
" it for you nor yours. But with this
" be diligent; ſuffer not the idle life
" you have here led, to get the better

" of

" of you: rouſe yourſelves once more,
" and put your hands to work, and ſet
" out again in life, as if you were going
" to live in a ſtrange country, where
" you are unacquainted with every
" one; harbour no animoſities in your
" breaſts, but forgive all you may
" think have injured you. Thoſe who
" were the cauſes of your confinement,
" *may* have been inconſiderate and raſh;
" but I preſume you were in their
" debt, or you would not have been
" here. Debts are dues that ever
" ſhould be paid, and nothing can ex-
" culpate you in withholding the pro-
" perty of another. Though the fa-
" vour of the laws may have now releaſ-
" ed you from the obligation of paying
" among others thoſe ſums for which
" you are here confined, ſtill it is incum-
" bent on you to diſcharge them, ſhould
" Providence ever put it into your
" power; and you cannot hope to thrive
" and proſper without ſuch honeſt in-

" tentions, ſuch upright actions. If
" it is the duty of a ſon to refund what
" his deceaſed father acquired by ex-
" tortion and injuſtice, for which the
" laws could not lay hold upon him,
" it is certainly your duty, whenever
" you are able, to repay the money
" you have borrowed, or the ſums you
" are in fact indebted. An act of inſol-
" vency cannot alter the nature of
" right and wrong. It takes place with
" political views, for the good of ſo-
" ciety. The more populous a na-
" tion is, the richer it becomes, and
" immuring a number of uſeful hands,
" is taking away ſo many beneficial
" members of ſociety. To remedy
" this inconvenience, inſolvent acts
" from time to time have been paſſed,
" and a number of uſeful men thus
" reſtored to the community. It is
" not that ſuch a law exempts any
" man from paying his debts: he is
" as much bound to do it, in point

" of

" of conſcience, as if no ſuch law
" took place; and this to a man of
" ſpirit and honeſty, there being no
" method of compelling him to it,
" I ſhould think would be a ſufficient
" incitement."

It has been ſaid, " that one of
" the greateſt misfortunes of a pri-
" ſon is, that priſoners are too
" apt to catch the diſſolute manners
" of the vicious, and though they go
" in *men*, they come out *wretches*.
" This is an opinion that has too
" much prevailed, and prejudiced the
" world againſt ſuch as have been un-
" fortunately long confined; but it is
" an erroneous and uncharitable opi-
" nion: I am perſuaded a *good* man,
" one that is truly ſo, will rather
" profit by his misfortunes, than
" otherwiſe; and if a ſcene of vice
" has been any time before his
" eyes, it will ſtrike him with horror,
" and make him ſtudy to avoid it.
" However, as the generality of peo-

" ple are apt to think differently; a
" man who wiſhes to re-eſtabliſh his
" reputation, will be doubly cautious
" of his conduct, and endeavour to
" convince his acquaintance that
" though he may have been unfor-
" tunate, he has not been *criminal.* I
" hope you will excuſe the freedom
" with which I ſpeak; believe me, it
" proceeds from an honeſt heart, a
" heart that would rejoice to do you
" any good. I wiſh you as much
" happineſs as you can wiſh your-
" ſelves, and I flatter myſelf I ſhall
" live to *hear*, if not to ſee, that many
" of you, though for a long time
" preſſed down with trouble and per-
" ſecution, will riſe above your ene-
" mies, become wealthy and flou-
" riſhing, be good men, good citi-
" zens, and an ornament to your
" country."

## CHAP. V.

*The Character of a Trading Magiſtrate. Unhappy Situation of Girls of the Town. Obſervations on the Indelicacy of the Age. Story of a Newgate Solicitor. Deſcription of a Night Cellar. The Iniquity of Watchmakers.*

TO this preacher I was not a little obliged. He gave me the character of Juſtice Fleece'em, for that was the magiſtrate's name by whom I was committed, and told me, that "he had formerly been an old-"clothes man, and knew the value of "money too well not to accept a "bribe, if offered through the medium "of his clerk; that though he had "received his education in Rag-Fair,

" he did not want for abilities, and " had a wonderful preſence of mind " on certain occaſions, of which the " following anecdote is a proof. " When buſineſs at his office is " ſlack," ſays he, " he ſends the high " conſtable round the purlieus of " Drury, to pick up all the ſtraggling " women he can find, and bring them " before him; at theſe times they have " been brought by ſcores. Such as " can make a golden intereſt with his " clerk, are generally diſmiſſed with a " reprimand; but ſuch as cannot " command half a guinea upon the " occaſion, are ſure to be ſent to " Bridewell. It happened that his " worſhip had intrigued with one of " theſe girls at a time and place when " he little expected to have been " known, and had probably bilked " her of her fee; ſhe unable for " want of money, to make that pre- " vailing application, which ſome

" others

" others had done, begged, before ſhe " was taken away, that his worſhip " would permit her to ſpeak to him " privately, as ſhe had ſomething of " the utmoſt importance to communi- " cate. Curioſity led him to hear " her, and ſhe was brought within " the bar; ſhe accordingly reminded " him in his ear, of a former *tête-à-tête* " that had paſſed between them," (which, as his worſhip was rather deaf, was overheard by a perſon next them) " and as he was in her debt, ſhe hoped " it would plead as powerfully for her, " as any preſent ſhe could make to his " clerk." " And ſo, woman," bawls out his worſhip, " that honeſt man " was your father?—Well!—You are " a graceleſs huſſey; but on *his* " account, I will this time forgive " you; and I hope it will be a warn- " ing to you to behave better for the " future."

The

The ſituation of theſe unhappy girls is truly deplorable. Betrayed perhaps by the man on whom ſhe fondly doated, and giving too much way to the propenſity of nature, the deluded female ſacrifices her honour to her love, and for this indiſcretion is turned into the ſtreet moneyleſs and friendleſs; here ſhe becomes a ſlave to diſeaſe and infamy, and a prey to thoſe who are far more depraved than herſelf. Having nothing to ſupport her, ſhe has no alternative but theft or proſtitution; and of theſe two evils, ſhe thinks it better to injure herſelf than others. But this profeſſion requires dreſs, and there are not wanting women to furniſh it, for which they make theſe girls pay three or four ſhillings a day; but where a girl has a good face and but little credit, leſt ſhe ſhould decamp with her hired clothes, a woman is appointed to follow her in her nightly round; who never loſes ſight of

of her till ſhe is picked up and taken to a public-houſe; there ſhe waits her coming out, and takes from her two-thirds of her ill-gotten pay. One of theſe women was quarrelling with a girl of the town one evening as I paſſed along the Strand, and would have proceeded to blows, had ſhe not been attending upon another. "Bl-ſt your eyes," ſays ſhe, "let me put up my whore, "and I'll box you for a crown."—It is to be regretted that our police is not better regulated; but whilſt our magiſtrates are ſo indolent and ignorant, there is little expectation of its being done.

Indeed, ſuch is the depravity of the times, that there appears no end to licentiouſneſs. A native ſimplicity and an innate modeſty are the principal ornaments of the female ſex; without theſe the women are but little more deſirable than thoſe unfortunate creatures who traverſe the ſtreets by night. The high ſtays

ſtays and broad tucker were characteriſtic of the purity of the laſt age; but the reverſe in this, is ſhewn in a variety of modes, not only in the general turn of converſation, but in the dreſs and conduct of the women. —Low ſtays, narrow tuckers, naked ſhoulders, and ſhort petticoats; men ſtay-makers, male hair-dreſſers, men-midwives, and their preparatory viſits, all ſerving to inflame the mind and rouſe thoſe unruly paſſions that would otherwiſe be aſleep.—Were I to deſcend to particulars, theſe thoughts would not be fit to be read. The ſeveral expoſures of the female perſon to theſe ſtay-makers, hair-dreſſers, and midwives, on particular occaſions; the many indecent fooleries committed by the men, when in company with, and by permiſſion of, the women; the wanton glances, the leers, the inward ſtare, &c. of the latter, and the artful *manœuvres* of their fan, are ſo many incite-

incitements to indelicate thoughts, and is ſufficient to corrupt an anchorite. How can mothers of families expect to preſerve the virtue of their daughters, if they expoſe them to ſuch temptations? Indeed, ſuch is the temper of the times, that, provided a girl can preſerve her reputation till ſhe is married, ſhe may act as ſhe pleaſes afterwards; for let her be as abandoned as ſhe will, whilſt ſhe continues to live with her huſband, ſhe will be reſpected and viſited by all her acquaintance. But how difficult is it for a young woman to preſerve her character till ſhe *is* married, unleſs ſhe be wedded before the age of twenty! Example is far more prevalent than precept; and there are few girls but what will endeavour to imitate their female acquaintance. This imitation lays them open to ſeduction, and they are often ruined before they are aware. Let a girl carry into company the beſt reſolutions,

reſolutions, and the moſt rigid modeſty, ſhe is ſoon laughed out of them by the young fellows of the age. If ſhe bluſhes at any thing ſhe ſees, they will immediately ſtare her in the face, and thus increaſe her confuſion. To avoid this therefore in future, ſhe will labour to ſmother thoſe bluſhes, and in a little time will bring herſelf to ſit out and enjoy an indelicate converſation, as well, if not better, than thoſe who are ten years older than herſelf. And what does all this lead to, but to a total depravity of manners? A man of faſhion now makes no ſecret of his intrigues; he will tell you, not one woman of quality in a hundred ſuppoſes her huſband conſtant to her; and his female acquaintance, I mean perſons of repute, will frequently enter into the ſubject of his gallantries, and talk of his miſtreſs, with as much compoſure as they would of his wife; nay young ladies, when aſked in marriage, will

will calmly and deliberately enquire of the perſon who aſks them, if he has any female connections, and beg, if he has, they may be previouſly provided for, that they may not hereafter be troubleſome. It will ſcarcely be credited, but it is no leſs true, that a nobleman now living told a lady he had promiſed to marry, that unleſs ſhe would conſent to his keeping a favourite miſtreſs in the houſe with them, he muſt decline all thoughts of the alliance.

We are not only imitating the follies, but the vices of the French, and we ſeem only to want one or two of their diſcretionary laws to bring us to a level with them. They have foundling hoſpitals in every town for the reception of illegitimate children; and whoever charges a woman with want of character, is liable to be impriſoned during her pleaſure, and till he has made her ſatisfaction.

tisfaction. This is a petty law, from which a certain number of men however are exempt, thoſe to whom the King has granted a patent of *nobleſſe*. All officers are of this rank; of courſe the women are cautious how they truſt to the honour of ſuch men, but are very liberal of their favours to others. There is another law alſo, that not a little contributes to the national depravity of the French. In many places they have adopted the cuſtom of betrothing; that is, where the parties are all agreed, if a young couple wiſh to be married, the man is at liberty to take the woman home to his houſe, and to live with her as his wife for twelve months, or till ſhe proves with child; for as it is expected that the young couple ſhould make ſome extra appearance on their marriage, which may not be convenient to the huſband, provided he marries her before ſhe lays in, or at the

the expiration of twelve months, all is well; if he deſerts her, he is deſpiſed, and liable to be proſecuted; but the child, if ſhe has any, is lodged in a foundling hoſpital, and the mother is conſidered as virtuous as ever. Among men of faſhion, the firſt ſtep a bridegroom takes, is to provide a gallant for his wife, who is to conduct her into all public places, where it would look too uxorious for the huſband to appear with her. This gallant is a gentleman, generally becomes the *ami* of the huſband, and is admitted to the toilette of the lady as ſoon as her huſband retires, who never preſumes to return without leave. The following ſtory will give the reader a ſufficient inſight into their character: A nobleman, having provided his lady with ſuch a gallant, gave him almoſt the free command of his houſe. It happened one day that this gentleman had a viſit to pay, and his own carriage

riage being out of repair he aſked the lady for the loan of their's, my Lord being at that time from home; ſhe not conceiving it would be wanted, readily lent it to him. His Lordſhip however ſoon after returned to dreſs, and ordering his chariot, was told it was gone out, and upon what occaſion. The diſappointment was great, yet ſubmitted to. But on the gentleman's return, his Lordſhip thought proper to cloſet him, and told him with ſome warmth, that he might lay with his lady as often as he pleaſed, but if ever he preſumed to take his carriage again without his leave, he would cut his throat. The ſaying of Galba to his ſlave who robbed him, is very applicable to my preſent purpoſe: "I don't ſleep, my friend, for "every body." This Galba ſhut his eyes, while Mecænas, the favourite of the Roman emperor, kiſſed his wife; but when his ſlave took a ſimilar op-

portunity to rob him of a bottle of wine, he thought proper to be awake.

We are not arrived indeed at this pitch of family indifference, but things are in the faireſt train for it. Our married women begin to flirt with ſtrange men, and their huſbands are not ſeen with them in the ſame box at the opera. They are precluded, whilſt their male acquaintance are admitted. Men of gallantry are not found here in a lady's bed-chamber, *with* the huſband's conſent; but it is notorious that they are there *without*. In ſhort, the age is become ſo abandoned, that I ſhould not be ſurpriſed, if in a few years every ſhadow of decency was to be diſſipated, and women were to be in common. But to return to my ſtory.

On my expreſſing to this old man in the priſon, my aſtoniſhment at the various ways of getting money in the metropolis, and how ſorry I was to obſerve,

obſerve, that even juſtice was put up to ſale; he gave me to underſtand, that Juſtice Fleece'em had acquired a fortune by his practice; that he was up almoſt to any villainy; but that, as, from his officious induſtry, he was a terror to felons, and brought many ſcoundrels to puniſhment, who would otherwiſe eſcape, the law had winked at his conduct, and had even countenanced it by a penſion.

"The ſtate," continued he, "having allotted a reward of forty "pounds for the apprehending of "houſe-breakers, highway robbers, "and the like, it is unknown the ſums "of money he picks up this way. "He has a gang in pay, which is always upon the ſcout, and the half "of every forty pounds he this way "gets, he *generouſly* divides among "them, keeping the remainder to "himſelf. And what is the conſequence?—That none but ſuch villains

"lains

" lains as the law allows that ſum for " apprehending, are apprehended. " An acquaintance of mine," ſays he, " told me the other day, that " being on buſineſs, at a night cellar " in Cow Lane, whilſt he was ſtand- " ing at the bar, there came in a " young fellow returned from tranſ- " portation, who addreſſed himſelf to " the woman within, with a 'How ' are you miſtreſs?' 'Aye, Jack,' ſays ſhe, 'is it you?' 'Yes,— it is 'I,' replies he, 'make me a ſneaker of 'gin punch.'—'Not a drop ſhall you 'have here.'——'Why not?' 'I ex- 'pect,' ſays ſhe, 'Juſtice Fleece'em's 'men every inſtant, and I would not 'have you taken in my houſe for the 'world!' 'Pſhaw!' ſays Jack, 'they 'won't meddle O'*me*.—They'll get no- 'thing by taking of *me*.' " And " hardly had he uttered the words, but " Baildock, the juſtice's man, and

" two of his myrmidons, entered. " Baildock ſlapped him on the ſhoul- " der, with ' So, Jack, you're *ſoon* ' returned ?—The country, I ſuppoſe, ' was too hot to hold you ?'—' Aye, ' Maſter Baildock,' replies he, ' no- ' thing like Old England for me.' ' Come, will you take a ſup of ' punch ?' " They drank together, " and parted; for, continued my " friend, as government allows but " little reward for apprehending ſuch " as return from tranſportation, this " gang of Juſtice Fleece'em's has it in " orders, not to interrupt ſuch, but " keep them in view, waiting till they " reſort to their old practices, and " then to lay hold of them; by which " conduct the apprehenders gain an " ample reward."

With theſe, and ſuch like anec- dotes, was this man amuſing me on the firſt day of my arrival within the caſtle, for ſo did the priſoners call their

their place of confinement, when the keeper brought me word that Lawyer Grind wanted to ſpeak to me. "By *no* means ſee him," ſays he, "he is one of thoſe pettyfogging "raſcals, that prey upon the wretched, "and live upon the miſeries of the "unfortunate." "I'll tell you a "ſtory of him," continues he, "that "fell within my own knowledge, and "upon the truth of which you may "rely. A man of tolerable good "connexions was brought in here for "a highway robbery. This fellow "applied to him, and amuſed him "with hopes of eſcape. As a drown-"ing man will, to ſave himſelf, even "catch at ſtraws, ſo this unhappy "culprit liſtened to his deceitful ad-"viſer. He gave him to underſtand, "that if he could furniſh him with "ten guineas, he would procure a "copy of the indictment, and had no "doubt of diſcovering ſome error in

" it, that would inſtantly quaſh it. " The ten guineas were given, but on " a ſecond viſit he was told, that " counſel had examined the indict- " ment, and not the ſhadow of a flaw " could be found: but, that he was " convinced, from the account he had " received of the proſecutor, that he " might be bought off, and of the " evidence, that they might be ſoften- " ed, for about twenty pounds. He " poſſeſſed that twenty pounds. It " was given; and a third viſit told " him, that the proſecutor had been " applied to, and was found incor- " ruptible, and the evidence too re- " ſpectable to be influenced; that the " caſh had been expended in bribing " thoſe, who were ſuppoſed to have " ſome weight with the evidence, but " they could not ſucceed." " How- " ever," ſays Grind, " as I have al- " ways people ready to prove an

" *alibi*,

" *alibi**, if you can raiſe thirty pounds
" more, there is no doubt of ſucceſs.
" The poor wretch applies to his
" friends, and theſe thirty pounds
" were raiſed; but they turned out
" as ineffectual as the laſt. The trial
" came on, the *alibi* was overthrown,
" and the poor devil convicted. Could
" nothing more be done?—Yes, for
" ten more, he would move an arreſt
" of judgment, for the proceedings
" had been illegal. Here he was
" foiled again; counſel had exerted
" themſelves, but the attempt was
" over-ruled.—There was, however,
" another ſtep, in which he flattered
" himſelf he ſhould be more ſucceſs-
" ful. This was by a proper appli-
" cation of thirty guineas, to bring
" over the Recorder to make a favour-
" able report.—This ſum was alſo got,

* This is to prove, that the priſoner was in ſome other place, than the place alledged, when the fact for which he is arraigned, was committed.

" but the means were equally unſuc-
" ceſsful. In this hopeleſs ſituation, the
" attorney addreſſes him again. ' If
' he could any ways contrive, through
' his friends, to raiſe twenty pounds
' more, a petition ſhould be preſented
' to the throne, and care ſhould be
' taken to get it well backed at the
' council board, and he might *rely* on
' a pardon.' " He uſually contrived
" the matter to end, long before it got
" ſo far, but your caſe," ſays he,
' is an uncommon one, which has
' hitherto baffled all my endeavours,
' but in this final ſtep I *never* fail.'
" Encouraged by this declaration, every
" friend, as for life, was importuned,
" and this laſt twenty pounds pro-
" cured, but all to no purpoſe. The
" death warrant was ſigned, and an
" order came down for execution.
" In a diſtracted ſtate of mind, the
" poor wretch ſends for his lawyer
" again, reminds him of the many

" promiſes

" promiſes he had made, the many " great ſums he had received, and " aſked him, ' if there were no hopes ' after *all?*' ' Hopes,' ſays he, ' to ' be ſure there are.—The petition is ' ſo ſtrongly worded, and ſo power- ' fully backed, that take my word for ' it, they *cannot* hang you—they *dare* ' not hang you,—and there was not ' the leaſt doubt but he would be left ' out of the death warrant.'—' Aye, ' Sir,' returns the deſpairing criminal, ' it was on this account I ſent for you. ' The death warrant *is* ſigned,—*I* am ' *in* that warrant, and an order is come ' down for execution on Wedneſday ' morning.' " This the attorney " *could* not ſtand;—' Execution!' ex- claimed he, ' Execution!—Well—*let* ' 'em hang you, *let* 'em hang you,— ' and d—n *me*, if it ſhall not be the ' worſt job they ever did in their ' lives!'—" At this, he turned upon

" his heel, and left his deluded client
" to his fate."

This ſtory determined me not to ſee Mr. Grind; I ſent him word, my caſe was of a nature not to need his aſſiſtance, and therefore I would not trouble him; I thanked my friend for his admonition, and reſolved to truſt to myſelf. Not knowing the nature of a night cellar, which had been dropped in converſation, I wiſhed for ſome account of one, and requeſted my adviſer to make me acquainted with what he knew of them. He gave me the following account:

" A NIGHT-CELLAR is an ale-
" houſe under ground, in ſome po-
" pulous, but ſecret part of the town,
" which is kept open all night, for
" the reſort of whores and rogues,
" and all ſuch perſons whoſe actions
" will not bear the teſt of day-light.
" In ſome of theſe places of rendez-
" vous,

" vous, villains of note are generally
" to be found; and through the
" treachery of gangs in general, that
" of Juſtice Fleece'em's becomes well
" acquainted with their perſons. There
" is ſeldom a daring robbery or bur-
" glary committed, but Baildock and
" his crew get ſome intelligence of it;
" and though they are not able imme-
" diately to fix it on any particular
" man, they will ſoon trace it out,
" and take the offender into cuſtody.
" Daring as theſe ſcoundrels are, there
" is an unaccountable infatuation in
" moſt of them, that will lead them
" to ſurrender themſelves to Fleece'em's
" men, without violence. Baildock
" has many a time ſearched theſe
" night-cellars alone, without fear or
" danger: as madmen will, in their
" raving intervals, ceaſe raving at
" ſight of their keeper, and ſubmit
" quietly to him, ſo will moſt of theſe
" villains yield, without reſiſtance, to

" the mandates of Baildock. Whe-
" ther they are awed by his undaunted
" reſolution, or diſmayed by conſcience,
" or any other motive, I cannot ſay;
" but Baildock has been known to
" carry off from theſe places, the man
" he looked for, and without the
" leaſt oppoſition. 'Maſter Baildock,'
" ſays one of theſe fellows, as he ap-
" proached him in one of his midnight
" ſearches, 'I hope you are not come
' for I?' 'No, Tom,' ſays he, 'it
' is not *you* I want, but Dick Houn-
' ſlow; and I ſee him yonder. Come,
' Dick, you muſt go with me.'—
' D—n me,' ſays Dick, 'if I did not
' dream as much a day or two ago;'
" then addreſſing himſelf to his com-
" pany, 'Well, gentlemen,' ſays he,
' God bleſs you—this ſeſſions will be
' the end of *me*—may *you* outlive
' many of them!'—" and walked off
" with Baildock, as quietly as if in
" irons."

Was

Were I to relate to the reader all the information I picked up during the time I was in this priſon, it would fill a volume; and amuſing as it might have been at any other time, I was too much taken up with my own affairs to attend much to it. I was to prepare for a ſecond examination. A magiſtrate has certainly no authority to bring up priſoners before him to a ſecond, or a third examination; if there is ſufficient charge againſt them for commitment, they are to be committed for trial; if not, he is to diſcharge them: but Juſtice Fleece'em made a trade of his profeſſion, and his houſe was a kind of petty court of judicature, where priſoners went, as it were, through a formal trial. It was ſo far of uſe indeed, that to a villain it was a good preparatory to his arraignment at the Old Bailey, and was frequently a means of his finding methods to get off.

Though appearances were ſtrong againſt me, being wrapt up in conſcious innocence, I was convinced that the arrows of malevolence could not hurt me. I was not without money, and I ſet about collecting the evidence in my favour. I recollected that a porter at the auctioneer's was preſent when I bought the watch; and that on the evening when the proſecutor was robbed, I kept my room with a cold, and had at that time a neighbouring apothecary to attend me; theſe people, I was perſuaded, would juſtify my innocence, if the auctioneer was ſo relentleſs, as not to appear in my behalf. Indeed, I had little favour to expect from him; for ſuch is the ſtrange conduct of mankind, that whilſt a man, who knows you, has reaſon to think he is well with you, he will do you no open injury; but, if convenience, or any circumſtance has once led him to treat you ill, by his ſacrificing your intereſt

intereſt to his, ſo that he deſpairs of your ever forgiving him, he becomes the moſt inveterate enemy you have; and though you have never given him the leaſt offence, it is all the ſame, he acts and ſpeaks of you in future, as if you had been a thorn in his ſide ever ſince he had any knowledge of you. It was not ſo, however, with this man; though, as I ſince learned from his porter, he was the means of my being apprehended, by a falſe inſinuation; even this man, thinking he had puniſhed me ſufficiently, thought proper, on application, to appear in my favour; of courſe, notwithſtanding, on my ſecond examination, the proſecutor was not preſent, I was acquitted, with the loſs only of the watch I had purchaſed, and the expence of a few pounds in meſſengers, fees, and other contingencies. Before, however, I left the Juſtice, I took the liberty to aſk for my watch, which, as I had fairly purchaſed,

chaſed, I thought myſelf entitled to, when all the ſatisfaction I could get was, "The firſt of James the Firſt, "chapter twenty-one, ſays, The ſale "of goods in London, wrongfully "come by, ſhall not alter the pro-"perty; of courſe it belongs to the "*proſecutor.*" And I was afterwards told, upon inquiry, that on the proſecutor's demanding his watch, he could obtain no other anſwer than, "The law ſays, Goods ſold in open "market ſhall be the property of the "buyer; now, all London is an open "market, and every day, except Sun-"days, market-day in London; there-"fore it belongs to the *priſoner.*" I thought little, however, about the watch, or my money, happy to owe my acquittal to my innocence; indeed, my watch was an expence to me which I could not well afford; for as it was frequently out of order, whenever I carried it to a watchmaker,

I was

I was ſure to have ſix or ſeven ſhillings to pay. This is one of their modes of getting money; though little or nothing is the matter with a watch, they will pretend it requires repair, which you cannot contradict, and make you pay accordingly.

CHAP.

## CHAP. VI.

*He engages as a Collector of News. A Newspaper Office described.*

BEING now out of employ, I offered my service to the printer of a morning newspaper, and wished to be engaged in any way he thought I might be useful to him. "What is your fort?" says he; "can "you pen a good parliamentary de- "bate, or bespatter a character?" I told him, "I was blessed with a happy "memory, and was persuaded I could "bring away a speech nearly as it was "delivered."—"Delivered! Phu,"—replies he, "we don't want a *verbatim* "and *literatim* reporter. You don't "suppose a speech is delivered as set "forth

" forth in the newſpapers? No, no,
" friend, there is ſad hacking work in
" the delivery; the members of both
" Houſes owe their good ſpeeches to
" the abilities of the reporters, who
" give the Public the ſubſtance of
" what is there ſaid, in language *fit* to
" be read. Indeed we have frequently
" ſpeeches brought for inſertion, but
" theſe are ſpeeches of patriots, per-
" haps never ſpoken, which they have
" procured to be written for them,
" are unwilling ſhould be loſt, and are
" anxious to have them publiſhed, to
" give them credit with their conſti-
" tuents. We are always *paid* for
" theſe. We want reporters of an-
" other ſtamp.—Can you twiſt an
" argument, ſo as to give it a ſenſe
" different from the obvious one? Our
" paper is a party print, and every
" line in politics muſt carry the ſenſe
" we wiſh it. If a ſpeech is vehe-
" ment in oppoſition to our prin-
" ciples

" ciples, where the ſenſe of the ſpeaker's
" arguments cannot be wreſted to
" anſwer our purpoſe, it muſt, by
" pointing the paſſages, and giving
" certain words in Italics, be made to
" reſemble irony. It is our buſineſs to
" write down an enemy; and to do
" this, we muſt impute his aſſertions
" to ſiniſter views, and give a falſe
" colouring to his beſt actions and in-
" tentions. Next," ſays he, " as to
" beſpattering a character; if you are
" clever at *this*, I can employ you."
I gave him to underſtand, that I thought I ſhould ſucceed beſt in this department, for that I was ſo determined an enemy to vice and impoſition in general, that I muſt drag it forth, wherever I found it lurking.
" That won't do, friend," ſays he,
" you miſtake my meaning. Vice
" and impoſition, *in general*, we have
" nothing to do with; we don't ſet
" up as correctors of morals; our plan

" is

" is to write a character into diſre-
" pute that oppoſes our party; for
" this purpoſe, we muſt hold him
" forth as the worſt of men, and attri-
" bute to him vices that he never was
" poſſeſſed of." " But this," replied
I, " is an act of cruelty and wicked-
" neſs." " It is neither *cruelty* nor
" *wickedneſs*," ſays he; " any means
" are juſtifiable to ſtop a fool's mouth,
" or interrupt an officious meddler;
" even to put him out of the world
" would be an act of charity to man-
" kind—and as to *wickedneſs*, if we
" now and then make a virtuous man
" vicious, we as often make a vicious
" man virtuous; and of courſe, he
" who does as much good as harm,
" in the ſcale of morality, cannot be
" a *wicked* man. Beſides," ſays he,
" we could not live without ſcandal;
" the more we pleaſe the people, the
" more papers we ſell; and as the vir-
" tuous of mankind are but *few*, our
" buſineſs

" buſineſs is to write for, and gratify
" the *many*. As a man in a crowd
" will endeavour to lift himſelf above
" the reſt, though it be on the ſhoul-
" ders of another, ſo it is in ſociety;
" we labour to get on, and become
" conſpicuous, not by any merits of
" our own, but by depreciating the
" characters of others; of courſe, moſt
" men like to ſee their acquaintances
" traduced: as officers, in time of ſer-
" vice, who now and then ſuffer by a
" random ſhot, are willing to run
" that hazard, with the hopes of many
" of their *friends* dropping, and mak-
" ing way for their promotion; ſo, in
" civil life, men are not much hurt by
" an oblique ſtroke thrown out in a
" newſpaper againſt themſelves, pro-
" vided it is laid on pretty thick upon
" others."

Whilſt we were in this converſation, a poor wretch of a paragraph collector came into the office, and demanded one

one ſhilling for the following paragraphs:

" A ſtory is abroad that one of the " E. of S.'s footmen was diſcovered " ſtealing out of Lady Betty W.'s " bedchamber yeſterday morning at " four o'clock, but that the news has " not yet reached her father."

" It is confidentially aſſerted, that " the Miniſter holds a ſecret corre- " ſpondence with Monſieur de Sartine " at Paris."

" Here, fellow," ſays the printer, " take away your d—n'd innuendo's— " do you think we can pay ſix-pence " a paragraph for ſuch *uncertain* in- " telligence as this?—Make them mat- " ters of *fact*, and we ſhan't grudge " the money."

This buſineſs being diſpatched, he reſumed his converſation: " You ſee, " friend," ſays he, " what we want; you " may try your hand, and if you can " furniſh us with the private intrigues

" of

" of reſpectable families, you may be " conſtantly employed." I told him, " I would take care to throw dirt " enough, and of courſe ſome of it " *would* ſtick,"—and left him.

Having been uſed to diſguiſes, I made an engagement with an old-clothes man in Monmouth-ſtreet, to equip me with ſuch as I had occaſion for, and dreſſed myſelf in character, agreeable to the places I was to be ſeen in. Sometimes I was a footman, ſometimes an officer, ſometimes a clergyman, and ſometimes a black-guard. As a footman, I mixed with the knights of the rainbow in the lobbies of the Opera-houſe and houſes of Parliament, and by inventing a number of ſtories of families where I had lived, and the participation of a pint or two of porter, I frequently ſucked their brains, and got acquainted with a number of private and entertaining anecdotes. As an officer, I was at the Bedford,

Bedford, the Smyrna, George's, and other coffee-houſes of repute, and by joining in converſation, with induſtrious and attentive ears, I picked up a variety of intelligence reſpecting ſtateſmen, general officers, theatres and players. As a clergyman, I got acceſs at St. James's, gave the king, when, talking with certain perſons, a pleaſant countenance or a ſour one, as I wiſhed,—entered into the characters of individuals, according to their looks in the drawing-room; and when I wanted a little better information, I appeared there in regimentals; and I could have *filled* a newſpaper at any time with the ſcandal I heard. For though courtiers are backward in giving information to a *clergyman*, a caſſock not carrying with it any degree of command, yet a *military* man is never unattended to, a red coat and a *ſword*, in this age, having at all times the moſt prevailing influence. As a blackguard, I made

my way into all city, and other meetings of the people, and what I could not collect with my ears, I made up with invention: in ſhort, I became ſo uſeful to a newſpaper, that I was conſtantly employed. But their pay was poor; not more than ſixpence for a common paragraph, a ſhilling for a matter of fact or ſcandal, and half a crown for the death of a king. I was at laſt thought worthy to be admitted into their cabinet of literary men, who met on a Sunday evening, the only leiſure day in the week, where Dreadnought, our editor, preſided; from him we received our inſtructions for the ſix days following:—He was a deſperate man, capable of undertaking any thing, and was placed in this department, not for poſſeſſing any literary talents, but for being adequate to fighting his way through any dirty work that was expected of him. A clergyman was once propoſed to fill this office,

office, but as clergymen cannot, or muſt not fight, and as the argument of a proprietor on this propoſal had weight, namely, "if you employ an ec- "cleſiaſtic—what is to become of your "*duels?*" Dreadnought was appointed: it being found neceſſary, as newſpapers exiſt by ſcandal, and as the editor is the oſtenſible man, that he ſhould be one that was not eaſily to be frightened. And as the occaſional account of a duel between the editor and a perſon held forth to the public in an infamous light, generally increaſed the ſale of the paper for ſome time afterwards, great pains were taken to bring matters to ſuch a *fortunate* iſſue. But theſe men are generally well paid in the end, for the party they eſpouſe ſeldom fails to reward them; witneſs a gentleman in the north, who prevailed on a counteſs to marry him, for a ſuppoſed duel he fought in her behalf with a boxing parſon, who boaſted

afterwards that he touched 2000l. of this lady's fortune, for the part he acted.

I continued in this employ ſome time, but my career was interrupted, through the ungenerouſneſs of my employer. I had, in order to obtain his favour, charged a reſpectable perſon, of great rank, with high-treaſon; a proſecution was commenced againſt the printer, and nothing could attone for the offence but giving up the author; and as Jonathan Wild would, at any time, impeach his whole gang to ſave himſelf, ſo this multiplier of daily ſcandal thought proper to give in my name to the proſecutor, and I was obliged to ſecrete myſelf.—I lay hid ſome time, and the matter blew over. However, as I obſerved, the pay being poor, the ſervice dangerous, and the employ ſuch as did not agree with my feelings, I looked abroad for ſome other. It gave me, indeed, an inſight into the

*arcana*

*arcana* of a newſpaper, and if I ſuffered in reputation, I improved in knowledge. I there found, that, like the generality of mankind, nothing came amiſs to them. They would frequently abuſe a character, and promiſe a continuance of ſuch abuſe, merely to draw from that party huſh-money: if any ſum was offered for the non-inſertion of a paragraph, and a greater ſum was tendered for its inſertion, it was ſure to be in, and *vice verſâ*. Far be it from me to include every proprietor of a public print under this general cenſure; there is ſcarce a newſpaper printed, but what has many proprietors who reſide in different parts of the kingdom, and whoſe opinion, with reſpect to its conduct, is too often over-ruled by the acting partners; of courſe, they cannot be reſponſible for its contents; but this does not alter the caſe in general.

## CHAP. VII.

*Employed as an Amanuenſis. Commences Parſon. A Regiſter Office for the Clergy deſcribed. His Scheme to get a Wife.*

THE next place I got, and this through the means of an acquaintance, was that of an amanuenſis to a clergyman. He was a man of ſome fortune, and like moſt clergymen with any money, too indolent to write his own ſermons. So he was in poſſeſſion of the church, he cared little what became of the congregation. He was the younger ſon of a good family, had a chapel in London, a fellowſhip at Cambridge, and an annuity of 200*l.* a year; ſufficient together to enable him to keep a pair

pair of horſes. When in town, he wore a large grizzel wig, a pair of ſquare-toed ſhoes, in ſhort dreſſed like, and had all the formality of, a Preſbyterian: though a young man, he ſcrewed up his face into a primitive form, and would ſcarce ſuffer a ſmile upon his countenance; and there was ſuch an affected ſeverity in his manner, that you would have taken him for a ſaint; but when in the country, he was a buck of the firſt head, kept his girl, wore a ſmart bob wig, leather breeches, and was always in boots; he had but a ſmall ſtock of ſermons, and I was engaged, for a few months, to provide him with a greater. Having purchaſed a ſet of manuſcripts, which he could not well read, my buſineſs was to tranſcribe them, and now and then throw in a paſſage or two which he occaſionally penned on a ſlip of paper, as his leiſure moments from hunting, drinking, and the card-table, would

admit. Indeed, I frequently helped him out, very often adding ſome paſſages of my own; ſo that he would often ſay I ſhould make a very good parſon. He was once, when at Cambridge, called upon to preach in the morning at St. Mary's, before the univerſity, and not having a proper ſermon upon the occaſion, nor being able to compoſe or to compile one, was under a thouſand anxieties; for he ſtudied appearances more than moſt young men in the church. At laſt a circumſtance happened, that relieved him from his pain. While in Cambridge, we dwelt in college; and it ſo happened, that a fellow of the ſame community, who lived in the adjoining rooms, was appointed to preach at the ſame church in the afternoon. This young gentleman, who was a very good writer, and who took a great deal more pains than my maſter, delivered his ſermon aloud every morning

morning before his glaſs in his own room, in order to acquit himſelf well on the day of exhibition; and as the partition between the two apartments was only a wainſcot, I could diſtinctly hear every word: accordingly, with my maſter's conſent, I took down his ſermon *verbatim*, and he preached it in the morning. This being unknown to the other gentleman, the ſame diſcourſe was delivered in the afternoon. Though he who penned it, laboured to have it believed that he was the author of it, it did not avail, the myſtery was not unravelled, my maſter had all the credit, and the afternoon preacher was conſidered only as a purloiner of the copy.

Having furniſhed my maſter with about four dozen of ſermons, which he called a pretty good ſtock, he propoſed to diſcharge me, and took ſome pains to recommend me to a friend, as a very uſeful hand in the divinity

way; but his friend was of another caſt, he always compoſed his ſermons himſelf; perſuaded no one could do them ſo well, though when compoſed, few could underſtand them, from the variety of new words he uſed, and much fewer liked him. He uſed to conſole himſelf however with obſerving, that he really pitied his congregation for the vexation they muſt feel, at hearing ſo many fine things of which they were neither the writer nor the ſpeaker. It is ſaid, that thoſe who are bit by a mad animal partake of its nature and inſanity. If this be the caſe, I am perſuaded this friend of my maſter's had been bit by a bookworm, for he was literally literary mad. See him when you would, he was never without a book, and when at home, was almoſt overwhelmed with them. Every new publication he purchaſed, let it be in what language it would; for though he was maſter of but one,

he

he fancied himſelf well read in all, and always prided himſelf in having had the firſt copy *wet* from the preſs. Oft have I ſeen him in his ſtudy, almoſt buried in volumes. They lay all round him and his table, piled high upon the floor; and as he would never ſuffer a ſervant to duſt them, for fear of derangement, and was too much occupied in *little* thoughts to do it himſelf, they were covered with duſt. Here he would ſometimes buſy himſelf whole days in little more than re-arranging them, and would be almoſt loſt in a cloud of duſt. He ſaid, that in the Engliſh language there was a *paucity* of expreſſion that required to be *abundificd*, and he laboured to repair this defect. He called himſelf a *nealogiſt*, or a former of new words. Whenever he received a preſent, he returned his *civilities*, and thanked his friend for his *prevenient* politeneſs; and when he ſent his old black waiſtcoat to be new

dipped, he requeſted the dyer to *re-nigrify* it. There was not an author abroad with whom he did not court a correſpondence, nor any ſcribbler at home whom he did not peſter with his viſits. He would ſhew a card from Rouſſeau, and a letter from Voltaire, as a medalliſt would exhibit a Cromwell's *ſilver penny*, or an *Otho*. As I ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak of this man again, I ſhall drop the ſubject now, with ſaying, that as, during my ſtay with my maſter, I found out the art of making ſermons; and as no enquiry is ever made before a man officiates as a clergyman, whether he be really in orders or not, flattering myſelf I ſhould make as conſcientious a prieſt as the generality of parſons are, and being ſo little of a Roman catholic, as not to conceive, that the laying on of hands by a biſhop can confer grace, any more than that a few words mumbled over a piece of bread can make

make any alteration in its nature, I determined to take no other place, but to ſtart forward in the profeſſion myſelf; and, as this thought ſtruck me ſoon after I commenced an amanuenſis, I wrote two copies of every ſermon I was directed to tranſcribe, and kept one for my own uſe. Theſe amounted in the end to ſome dozens; accordingly, being furniſhed with all the requiſites of a modern parſon, namely, a few ſermons, an iron grey ſuit, and a ſtock of impudence, as ſoon as I quitted my maſter, I applied to Reſponſe, in Paternoſter Row, for employ.

This *gentleman* was formerly a pariſh clerk, but growing tired with ſaying Amen for twenty pounds a year, he found out a new method of being ſerviceable to himſelf, under the idea of being uſeful to the clergy. As there are regiſter-offices for a variety of *reſpectable* wants, ſuch as, for houſes, ſer-

vants, whores, &c. ſo this is a regiſter-office for parſons, a kind of *divinity-ſhop* in the city of London for hiring of preachers, readers, and ſo on, by the day or the week, as occaſion requires. For this purpoſe, he kept a liſt of unemployed clergy, of all ages and characters, to ſuit certain congregations: ſome, for example, attend much to the voice and to the action, and as they never take their eyes from the preacher during the whole ſermon, they wiſh for ſomething tolerable to look at; theſe he would furniſh with a ſmart prig preacher of twenty-five, who would keep them awake by an exertion of the voice, and a diſplay of the arms; to others, who do not like to be taught by boys, and had rather doze away a heavy hour or two, which the law will not ſuffer them to employ in their reſpective occupations, and who go to church more to keep up appearances, than

than from any ſpirit of devotion, he would provide a monotoniſt of ſixty. For ſuch men, like the tale-tellers in Scotland, have a happy knack of compoſing a congregation into a comfortable nap.

From this liſt he ſelected his preachers, and let them out for a ſtipulated ſum, according to the duty they were to perform, taking for himſelf as agent, ten per cent. and one ſhilling extra for thoſe he accommodated with a gown and caſſock. The following is a copy of his printed liſt of prices.

| | *s.* | *d.* |
|---|---|---|
| For reading and preaching on Sundays, morning or evening - - - | 10 | 6 |
| For preaching only - - | 7 | 6 |
| For reading prayers only - | 5 | 0 |
| For adminiſtering the ſacrament | 5 | 0 |
| For aſſiſting at ditto - - | 1 | 0 |
| For reading prayers on a week day, morning or evening | 1 | 0 |

For

| | d. | s. |
|---|---|---|
| For reading prayers on a Litany day - - - | 1 | 6 |
| For ditto on a feſtival - | 2 | 6 |
| For burying a corpſe, chriſtening a child, or praying by a ſick perſon - - | 1 | 0 |
| For churching a woman during ſervice - - | 0 | 6 |

I think I cannot explain the nature of this undertaking better than by giving my readers the ſubſtance of a dialogue between Mr. Reſponſe and a very ingenious friend of mine, who once applied to him, and which on his death-bed he thought proper to leave to the world.

*Curate.* "Mr. Reſponſe, your ſervant."

*Mr. Reſponſe.* "Doctor, your's."

*Curate.* "I ſuppoſe, Mr. Reſponſe, you can gueſs my errand. I am going out of town to-morrow for a fortnight, and ſhall want a ſupply,

" and at the ſame time, I come to in-
" form you, I ſhall from this day
" commence *agent* and *patient*, and
" intend to hire and be hired; ſo, as
" I am likely to be a pretty conſider-
" able dealer, and am, beſides, an old
" acquaintance, hope you will give
" me the turn of the ſcale. So put
" me down in your liſt immediately."

*Mr. Reſponſe (pulling out his liſt).*
" It ſhall be done, Sir. And a moſt
" reſpectable liſt it is, I aſſure you; I
" have juſt got a freſh cargo of Scotch
" divines, piping hot from Edinburgh,
" beſides the old corps—my collection
" ends with—let me ſee—fourteen
" ſchoolmaſters, five doctors of divi-
" nity, two of them juſtices of the
" peace, two reviewers, three politi-
" cal writers, two bible-makers (mind
" the climax—), and a king's chap-
" lain."

*Curate.* " All men of erudition, I
" ſuppoſe?"

*Mr.*

*Mr. Reſponſe.* " Excellent ſcho-
" lars,—charming preachers, I aſſure
" you, but—*entre nous*, not one of
" them worth a ſix-pence in the
" world.—But to your buſineſs—"

*Curate.* " Aye, Mr. Reſponſe,—I
" muſt have a good voice for *Wed-*
" *neſdays* and *Fridays*, and one of your
" beſt orators for *Sunday next:* you
" know my congregation is a little de-
" licate."

*Mr. Reſponſe.* " Then you muſt
" have a *young* man. My young gen-
" tlemen, I aſſure you, are all cuſhion-
" thumpers—none of your dreaming
" chaps—if there's the leaſt grain
" of duſt in a pulpit cuſhion, I'll be
" ſworn they'll beat it out."—*(Looking over his liſt.)* " Here's Parſon *Raw-*
" *bones*, one of my *athletic*, able-
" bodied divines; it is not long ſince
" he knocked down a clerk in the
" deſk, for interrupting him in the
" middle of a collect (and it was *only*
" for

" for telling him that he was reading
" the wrong one); this you know
" ſhewed him to be a man of ſpirit,
" and kept up the dignity of the cloth.
" No parſon, let me tell you, is re-
" ſpected now, that is not a *boxing*
" one. It is this qualification, and this
" *only*, that has procured Parſon ——
" a good living, and a commiſſion for
" the peace in the county of Eſſex.
" But I doubt whether *Rawbones* will
" do for you, for he is a *north country-*
" *man*, and has a *burr* in his throat;
" he'll never paſs, I fear, at your end
" of the town: I ſhall ſport him, how-
" ever, at a *day-lecture*, or an *early*
" *ſacrament*."

*Curate.* " You are very facetious,
" Mr. Reſponſe. But pray find me
" ſomebody, for I am in haſte."

*Mr. Reſponſe.* " If you wanted a
" whiner or a bawler for a charity
" ſermon, I could help you to the
" beſt *beggar* in England, an arrant
" pick-

" pickpocket for the *middle aiſle*.
" Beats your M——r's and your
" H——n's, out of the pit, a doctor
" of divinity too, and a juſtice of the
" peace; but he won't do for *you*, for
" the dog's over head and ears in debt,
" and daren't ſtir out on a week-day
" for fear of the bailiffs;—but here—
" I have him for you,—young Gallop,
" the quickeſt reader in London.
" He'll give Dr. *Drawl* to the *Te deum*,
" and overtake him before he comes
" to the thankſgiving:—A very pro-
" per man for this ſeaſon of the year!
" —an excellent reader for a cold
" day!—and a *rare hand* at a collect!
" —But you muſt tip him more than
" half a guinea for the morning's
" duty.—Let me tell you, Sir, I am a
" good friend to the inferior clergy,
" and have done more for them (and
" that's a bold word) than the whole
" bench of biſhops. I believe I may
" ſafely ſay, I have raiſed the price of

" *lungs*

" *lungs* at leaſt *cent. per cent.*; I knew " the time, and ſo did you, when a " well-caſſocked divine was glad to " read prayers on a holiday for a ſhil- " ling; old C—— never had more " in his life; now, Sir, I never let a " *tit* go out of *my* ſtable (you will par- " don my jocularity) upon ſuch an " occaſion, under half a crown."

It is to theſe, and ſuch like indignities, to which the clergy are obliged to ſubmit, that the function owes its degradation. There is ſcarce an old woman in a pariſh that does not pretend to know a clergyman's buſineſs better than he does himſelf, and on this account will undertake to dictate to him. In the country, an officiating miniſter will occaſionally meet with ſome reſpect; but in London, he is treated often with the utmoſt indignity. I knew a gentleman once, who was curate of St. Clement's in the Strand, a populous pariſh, in which there

ſeldom

ſeldom a day paſt without two or three funerals. It happened one evening, that two bodies were to be buried, and the gravedigger, as half the dues had been begged, and were to be remitted, on account of the poverty of the parties, thought proper to dig but one grave for the two, but deep enough to hold them both. One of theſe was an Iriſh club burial, and was attended by near a hundred chairmen, two and two, many of whom were half drunk, and many completely ſo. On their arriving firſt at the burial ground, they took poſſeſſion of the grave, and inſiſted on a freſh one's being dug for the other corpſe. This matter was conteſted by the oppoſite party, a company of ſoldiers, but not ſo numerous; a quarrel enſued, and a riot and much bloodſhed was the conſequence. The chairmen, however, kept poſſeſſion; and on the miniſter's arrival, led him by the collar to the grave, and inſiſted he ſhould

read

read the ſervice over that body then interred, the other being placed on a tombſtone near adjoining; condemning him, at the ſame time, as the cauſe of all the diſturbance, by ordering, as they ſaid, one grave only to be digged for the two bodies, that he might have occaſion to read the ſervice but once. He aſſuring them to the contrary, all was quiet for a moment, when one of the chairmen ſtepped forward, and attempted an apology, by ſaying, "his friend had beſpoke that grave a "week ago, and of courſe it belonged "to him;" and on being aſked, what friend? he replied, "his friend there "in the coffin."—"How can that "be?" ſays another.—"Why, you "fool," ſays he, "he beſpoke it by "me, and that is the ſame thing as if "he had ordered it himſelf." This was thought ſo inſufficient by another of the ſame party, completely drunk, that he jumped acroſs the grave, pulled the

the man off with "Out of the way, "you blockhead, you don't ſpeak "grammar; let me ſpeak to the jon- "tleman.—May it plaze your re- "verence!—with the greateſt defe- "rence *(hiccoughing)* to your reve- "rence imaginable—" During this eloquent harangue, the fellow whom he had interrupted and pulled away, falling into the grave, was ſo exaſpe- rated, that making the beſt of his way out, he levelled a blow at the orator, and had very nearly ſtruck the clergy- man, who now thought proper to in- terfere, and threatening to leave the ground if they were not more orderly, he was ſuffered to go through the ce- remony; which done, he left them, tell- ing the other party, that he had ordered a new grave to be dug for the other body, which, when finiſhed, and all was quiet, he would return and bury.

The chairmen now triumphed in their conqueſt, filled in the earth, and departed

departed in the order they came. They were no ſooner gone, but the other party dug out the corpſe, buried their dead friend in the grave, covered him up, and left him. On the clergyman's return, he found no one preſent but a few old women, who informed him of what had paſſed; accordingly he read the ſervice over the body laſt interred, and ordered the other corpſe to be buried in the new grave; but theſe old women took upon them to arraign his conduct. "When earth to earth, and "aſhes to aſhes," ſays one of them, "is "ſaid over a body, it is *felony* to take it "out of the grave; but as it *is* taken "out, it ought to be buried afreſh." To which he only replied, "*God* help "you, my good woman!" which was inſtantly retorted, and with aſperity: "God *help* me!—What do you mean "by that?—I'll let you know, that I "have no more need of God's help "than you have!"

It

It is wonderful to think of the ignorance of ſome of the lower claſs of people; the woman's reply above is a proof of it in one inſtance; and the following is another, within my own knowledge. A bricklayer's labourer, carrying up a hod of mortar to the top of a houſe, had the ill chance, juſt as he reached the third ſtory, to ſlip from the ladder, and fell headlong to the bottom; but Providence ſo ordained it, that he pitched into a bed of mortar below, and thus eſcaped. He was at firſt a little confuſed with the fall; but finding himſelf no way hurt, he got up, was looking for his hod, and going to work again: a conſcientious man paſſing by at the inſtant, and ſtruck with the circumſtance, went up to him, and addreſſed him with, "Friend, you have had a very won-
"derful eſcape; I would adviſe you
"to leave work for this day, and go
"home to your cloſet, fall down on
"your

" your knees, and thank God for this " miraculous deliverance."—" Thank " God?" ſays the fellow, "for what?—" had he ſaved me at the firſt ſtory, or " the *ſecond*, I might have thanked " him—he could throw me no *lower*, " could he?—He did his worſt.—" *Miraculous deliverance*, indeed!" At this he turned on his heel, and to his work again he went.

Before I quit the curate of St. Clement's, I muſt mention another anecdote concerning him. He prided himſelf in being a flowery preacher; and one Sunday, enraptured with the *ideal* happineſs of a peaſant's life, poſſeſſed of a large family, (which, in *reality*, is miſery and wretchedneſs to a prieſt of 40l. a year), he had been holding forth a long time on the comforts of a numerous progeny, who are like ſo many olive-branches round about our table: " Lo! children," ſays he, " and the fruit of the womb, are an

" heritage and gift that cometh of the " Lord; happy is the man that hath " his quiver full of them!" Now it ſo happened that ſome of the female inhabitants of Drury were then at church, and fell in with my friend's ideas; and as he lived near Somerſet-houſe in the Strand, and had to walk ſome diſtance every evening at ſeven, to read prayers at St. Clement's, the following winter, theſe words of his ſermon were echoed by the ladies from every part of the ſtreet, from every lane and from every alley, " Happy is the man " that hath his *quiver* full of them!" In vain did he attempt to croſs the ſtreet or go to his evening duty ſome other way; ſtill was he convinced his ſermon had been attended to; ſtill was it rung in his ears from all parts of the neighbourhood, " Happy is the man " that hath his *quiver* full of them!" " Nay," ſaid he, " theſe ladies had ſo " combined, and got to ſuch a daring

" pitch,

" pitch, as to lay violent hands on me
" one evening, and without any for-
" mal notice, oblige me to go to the
" top of a houſe to baptize a brat that
" had there found its way into the
" world; and on my aſking them for
" the cuſtomary fees, in order to get
" it regiſtered, a dozen of the fineſt
" well-dreſſed wh—es there aſſembled,
" told me, *una voce*, that ' Money
' they had none, but if I would pro-
' miſe them to regiſter the child, I
' might pay myſelf in *their* coin;
' one and *all* of them were at my
' ſervice.'

But to reſume my ſtory. The many inſults to which the clergy are expoſed, did not deter one in my ſituation. Having received a good education, and flattering myſelf I had equal abilities in compiling and delivering a ſermon with any man in the profeſſion, I perſuaded myſelf, that, whilſt I kept my own ſecret, I could do no

great harm. I could paſs an examination, and of courſe could have taken orders if I pleaſed; and, as a late Biſhop of Cheſter would never ordain a man till he had officiated as a deacon for three years, to ſee how he took to the profeſſion, I conceived there could be no harm in my putting myſelf upon a ſimilar trial.

Having then applied to this ſame Reſponſe, he ſoon found me employ; and as I acquitted myſelf to his ſatisfaction, and in a manner that did him credit, I never was idle; but an ill-judged parſimony of mine overſet the buſineſs preſently. I was employed to read prayers on a week-day in a large pariſh, for which I had my ſhilling, but being called, at that time, on more important buſineſs, to the other end of the town, I appointed a deputy, and gave him half my fee, but he was ſo out of ſpirits at being obliged to officiate at a price ſo degrading to the profeſſion,

feſſion, and ſo derogatory to the *honour* of the *cloth*, that he did not exert himſelf ſufficiently to be heard; and on the clerk's hinting to him, after ſervice, that he feared the congregation did not hear him, his anſwer was, "How do you think, friend, I am "paid?" "I preſume," replies the clerk, "the uſual compliment." "Not "ſo, Sir," returns the parſon, "I am "paid but *half price*, and I therefore "only read my *half beſt*." This ſtory was carried to Reſponſe; and, for attempting to take the bread out of his mouth, I was immediately ſtruck off his liſt.

I, at this time, got intelligence, that a certain Viſcount in the weſt, having married a woman of low family, who had a maiden ſiſter, propoſed to give any clergyman, that would take her to wife, a living in his diſpoſal, then vacant, of five hundred pounds a year. I determined to look after this living,

for though I was not in orders, as I have obſerved before, being ſufficiently qualified, I could eaſily have been ordained; the neceſſary teſtimonials I made no doubt of procuring. This lady lived at a market-town in the neighbourhood of Oxford: I accordingly inquired of the man who drove the ſtage-coach between that town and London, whether there was an aſſembly at the place; he told me there was, and promiſed to bring me word, the next time he came up, on what day the next aſſembly was to be. This information being procured, I hired an elegant poſt-chaiſe for the journey, and took a friend with me, for whom I borrowed a ſmart livery, and who followed as my ſervant on horſeback. I let this friend into my ſcheme, and, promiſing him a reward if I ſucceeded, gave him his inſtructions; which were, to paſs me for a man of good family and fortune. Thus, with two of my beſt

beſt ſermons in my pocket, I ſet off for the place I was bound to, and arrived there on a Friday evening, five days, as the coachman told me, before the aſſembly day. Having ſent for the landlord of the houſe where I was, I inquired, who ſerved the church? he told me, "a young gentleman from "Oxford." "My reaſon, friend," ſays I, "for aſking, is, that I am "a clergyman, and mean to paſs a "few days here, and, if I thought it "would be agreeable to your miniſter, "I would eaſe him of his duty on "Sunday." His reply was: "I have "no doubt, Sir, but he would be very "glad of the offer; it is a long way "to Oxford, and the roads, from the "late rains, very bad. To-morrow "is market-day there, and as ſeveral "of our farmers will be going, if you "think proper to write a letter, I will "ſend it." The letter was written, and the anſwer ſuch as I wiſhed. On

Sunday I preached; and from the great attention that was paid me on all ſides, I conceive that I acquitted myſelf with eclat; the object of my journey, however, was, unfortunately for me, not at church. As I came down from the pulpit, a lady, after paying me ſome compliments on my ſermon, aſked me, if I made any ſtay in the town? On my anſwering in the affirmative, ſhe told me her name, and requeſted my company to dinner. I waited on her, and found her the goſſip of the place. From her I acquired every information I wiſhed, and might, if I pleaſed, have learned the hiſtory of every family in the neighbourhood. Among other information, however, I found to my mortification, that the aſſembly was not to be ſo ſoon as I expected by a fortnight.

As there was ſomething remarkable in the character of this lady, I will give

give my reader ſome little account of her. She was the wife of an opulent tradeſman, who was left much alone, his buſineſs often calling him to London, was tolerably handſome, and about thirty-four years of age. Her father had likewiſe been in trade, and in a ſituation that enabled him to give her a tolerable education; and being ſuch a kind of woman as proves agreeable to the men, they had flattered her into an uncommon ſhare of vanity: they had taught her to believe ſhe had more ſenſe than half her ſex put together, and having picked up a little knowledge by reading, ſhe retailed it out in ſuch profuſion, and with ſuch volubility, that no one in company could ſpeak but herſelf. When I approached her houſe, which was a little retired from the town, ſhe was riding upon a ſlender rail, that with her weight (for ſhe was none of the lighteſt) gave her a kind of ſwinging

motion. She continued her ſituation till I came up to her, ſaid ſhe conceived herſelf to be Alexander riding upon Bucephalus, and endeavouring to give the rail more motion, ſhe loſt her equilibrium, and in the tumbler's phraſeology, gave me a ſomerſet; that is, ſhe fell backwards, heels over head. I flew to her aſſiſtance, expreſſed a concern at the accident, and hoped ſhe was not hurt; ſhe ſoon recovered herſelf, ſmiled, and ſaid, her Bucephalus had thrown her, and conducted me into her houſe. She affected an extenſive acquaintance among men of rank and faſhion, whom ſhe had never ſeen, and her glaſs in her parlour was crowded with viſiting tickets from a variety of lords, ladies, and baronets, whom ſhe knew only by name. A friend of her's once rebuked her for this affectation, by taking them all down; and on her aſking the reaſon of it, replied, that as he ſuppoſed they had

anſwered

anſwered *her* end, he begged leave to borrow them for the ſame purpoſe, or ſhe might put up a freſh ſet. She was however a pleaſant woman to be in company with, occaſionally, as ſhe entertained you with anecdotes of all her friends, or *ſuch* as ſhe was pleaſed to deem ſo. She admired my ſermon for having a piece of Latin in it, ſaid it was a language ſhe once ſtudied and was exceedingly fond of, and affected an acquaintance with all the ſciences; when in fact ſhe knew nothing about either the one or the other. In the courſe of converſation, ſhe told me that her knowledge of the Latin tongue had ſpread through more pariſhes than one, and that ſhe was not a little flattered with the idea of a neighbouring clergyman ſending to her for the loan of ſome of the claſſics. On my enquiring which of the claſſics ſhe lent him? ſhe told me *Littleton's Dictionary* and *Lilly's Grammar*. She

then run on with a detail of the adoration that was paid her by all the handſome men and men of rank ſhe met with; that ſhe could not bear the inſipidity of a woman's company; that, in her opinion, no man could be tolerable without a good pair of legs, and that ſhe fell in love with her huſband for the beauty of his calf. She was continually leering ur .r her hat, and I found ſhe was amorouſly inclined, but being in this place in the character of a clergyman, and on my good behaviour, I could not attend to it.

On my return to my quarters, I begged the landlord's company, and among other things aſked him, who was mayor of the town, and what kind of a man he was; he informed me, that he was a reſpectable tradeſman, a perſon of property, and a good-natured well-bred man. This account ſo met my wiſhes, that I called for paper,

paper, and wrote the following card, to be diſpatched the next morning:

" The gentleman who preached " yeſterday, preſents his compliments " to Mr. Mayor, and, if he will give " him leave, will do himſelf the ho- " nour to drink tea with him this af- " ternoon."

The anſwer returned was:

" Mr. Mayor's compliments to the " gentleman who preached, and ſhall " be proud of the honour of his " company."

When evening came, I ordered my carriage (for this, and the tongue of my ſervant gave me no ſmall credit), waited on the Mayor, and was politely received. His houſe was full of well-dreſſed men and women, collected, no doubt, for the pleaſure of reconnoitring me. Conceiving ſome apology neceſſary for this ſelf-invitation, I addreſſed

dreſſed him thus before all the company: "This abrupt introduction "of myſelf, Mr. Mayor, may require "ſome apology; I am here upon a "little excurſion, and as being at an "inn is irkſome, where I have not "the happineſs of being acquainted, I "make it a rule to introduce myſelf "(as I have done here) to the politeſt "families in the town where I am." The gentlemen ſmiled applauſe, the ladies tittered behind their fans; but I had the ſatisfaction to find myſelf very well received. Indeed, I wanted no further introduction any where; when the company preſent found I came down for the aſſembly, and had an intention of ſtaying ſome little time, invitations paſſed regularly round; one engaged me to dinner the next day, another the day following, and ſo on, but in all theſe parties I met not with the lady I wiſhed to ſee; ſhe being conſidered as beneath the company

pany I was then in. The Mayor, I found, was a pleaſant man, and Jack among the maids. He was pleaſed to ſay, that " as I had come down to " honour their aſſembly, of which he " was the founder, he was truly con- " cerned to think the day was ſo " far diſtant, as to fear the loſing " me; in order, therefore, that I " might not be diſappointed, he would " convene the ladies, and have a " dance at the inn where I was." This would have put me to a charge I could ill afford, as my gallantry would have led me to pay the whole expences of the evening; but I was ſoon relieved from the anxiety, for he returned my viſit the next morning, and with a melancholy countenance, told me, " the girls were of late " grown ſo ſqueamiſh, that they ob- " jected to dancing at a public houſe; " and that, as their aſſembly was in its " infancy, he could not permit them

" the

" the uſe of the town-hall, leſt the " neighbouring gentry ſhould, on " hearing of this dance, be diſpleaſed " that they had not notice of it; but " that if I would do them the honour " to ſtay over the next Sunday, he " would advertiſe it in the Oxford " Gazette on the enſuing Saturday, " and, on my account, would fix the " aſſembly on the Thurſday following, " which was a week ſooner than the " ſtated time." I of courſe acknowledged myſelf obliged, and agreed to it. Not having yet met, nor being likely to meet, in the company I was with, the lady I was in ſearch of, I excuſed myſelf from a party one afternoon, purpoſely to wait upon her. She lived with her mother, a widow: determining, therefore, to introduce myſelf, I wrote a card to the mother, ſimilar to the one I ſent to the Mayor, and ſhe returned her compliments, ſaying, " as ſhe " preſumed I had ſome buſineſs with " her,

" her, ſhe ſhould be glad to ſee me." I went there in my carriage, and ſaw the old lady, but Miſs was not with her; however, ſhe made her appearance with the tea-table, and expreſſed a concern that ſhe was not at church laſt Sunday, as ſhe ſhould have heard, by all accounts, a very excellent ſermon, and very gracefully delivered. I entered into the chit-chat of the town, the propoſed dance, and the politeneſs of the Mayor; told her, the aſſembly was to be the Thurſday following, and hoped ſhe would be there: her reply was, " She never had been " at the aſſembly, nor did ſhe know " ſhe ſhould be admitted, for the " ladies of that place did not think " her good enough to mix with " them." At this the mother fired, and ſaid, " ſhe had no notion of " that, her daughter was as good as " the beſt, and ſhe was a fool to keep " away." I favoured the idea, and encouraged

encouraged her to go, and told her, "that if ſhe would do me the honour "to dance with me, I ſhould be proud "of her as a partner, and would "conduct her there and back." "Should I go," ſays ſhe, "I ſhall "have no objections to dance with you, "but that is uncertain." So far introduced, I improved the acquaintance; called on her a day or two before the aſſembly; prevailed on her to accompany me there, and danced with her; and, we became ſo familiar before the cloſe of the evening, that I told her I was enamoured with her, and ſolicited permiſſion to pay my addreſſes to her. With a great deal of candour and good-nature, ſhe acknowledged herſelf obliged to me for the preference I had ſhewn to her before other ladies, but aſſured me, ſhe was engaged, and to a brother clergyman; to whom ſhe is ſince married.

CHAP.

## CHAP. VIII.

### *On Lecturers and Lectureſhips.*

FINDING my plan here abortive, I quitted the place, and returned to London, having been abſent from it near three weeks; and, being in daily apprehenſion of its being found out that I was not in orders, and dreading the demand of the man of whom I had the carriage and horſes, which amounted to near twenty pounds, and which I was unable to pay, I retired from my profeſſion, and concealed myſelf under a different character.

When I reflected upon my conduct, and the deceptions I uſed, I held myſelf in deteſtation; but I ſoon reconciled it to myſelf by the plea of neceſſity,

ſity, and the collateral one of meaning well; for, had I obtained that young lady's conſent, and had a promiſe of the living as a portion, I would have embraced a clerical life, and, I am bold to ſay, would have acted in that life with honour and probity. As it is, I was reſerved for a different ſituation. There is a fatality, I am convinced, in the lives of all men, that 'worketh wonderfully for their good;' and, unleſs it be conſtantly counteracted, will gain ground gradually to its conſummation.

As I ſet out with making uſeful remarks on the various paſſages in my life, for the improvement and entertainment of my readers; I cannot omit dwelling a little longer on the clerical profeſſion, and obſerving, that though its followers draw the many indignities they meet with too often upon themſelves, yet their poverty and diſtreſſed ſituation are frequently the

the occaſions of it. The idea of bringing up a ſon a gentleman has ſpoiled many a good tradeſman, and has thrown many upon the church whom ſhe is unable to maintain. Lecture-ſhips have been conſidered as a tolerable proviſion for thoſe who are not provided with livings or curacies; but the eſtabliſhment of lectureſhips, if we believe the ſame ingenious gentleman, who has favoured the world with his conference with Mr. Reſponſe, "has contributed in a great meaſure "to bring upon the whole body of "the clergy, that contempt into "which they are now fallen. The "choice of a lecturer is generally "veſted in the pariſhioners at large, "he being paid by a voluntary con-"tribution of the pariſh. Theſe "pariſhioners for the moſt part "conſiſt of ordinary tradeſmen, ſome-"times very low mechanics, perſons "not always of the moſt refined "manners,

" manners, or moſt delicate ſenſations.
" I had not been three weeks in Lon-
" don," ſays this gentleman, " but
" ſtrolling one Sunday afternoon into
" a church in the city, I heard the
" clerk, after ſervice, by order of the
" veſtry, declare the lectureſhip va-
" cant, and invite the clergy, how-
" ever dignified or diſtinguiſhed, to
" be candidates for it, and to give in
" their names by the enſuing Sunday.
" Having no clerical proviſion, I no
" ſooner heard this *church-ſerjeant*
" beating up for recruits, than I im-
" mediately reſolved to *enliſt*; and
" accordingly waited on the worſhip-
" ful *Stentor* above-mentioned, who
" took down my name and place of
" abode. On my deſiring him, at the
" ſame time, to acquaint me with the
" beſt method of proceeding, which
" I was an utter ſtranger to; he ad-
" viſed me, as a *friend*, to apply, as
" ſpeedily as poſſible, to Mr. Deputy
" *Mite*,

" *Mite*, a cheeſemonger in *Rotten*
" *Lane*, who was then firſt church-
" warden, a leading man in the
" veſtry, and a perſon, he aſſured me,
" on whom the election would, in a
" great meaſure, depend. I took ho-
" neſt *Amen*'s advice, and by nine the
" next morning (not, I muſt own,
" without ſome reluctance), dreſſed
" myſelf as well as I could, and
" waited on Mr. Churchwarden. As
" ſoon as he ſaw me enter the ſhop in
" my canonicals (for I had hired an ex-
" cellent new gown and caſſock, be-
" hind St. Clement's, on the occaſion),
" he made me a low bow, gave me the
" title of *Doctor*, and, imagining, no
" doubt, that I was come to beſpeak
" cheeſes for the country, begged to
" know my *honour*'s commands; to
" which I replied, in an humble tone,
" and looking extremely diſconcerted,
" that I came to wait on him on ac-
" count of the lectureſhip of the
" pariſh,

" pariſh, and begged the favour of
" his vote and intereſt. You would
" have ſmiled to have ſeen the ſudden
" alteration of his features and beha-
" viour: he dropped all the tradeſ-
" man's obſequiouſneſs, and, in a
" moment aſſumed the magiſterial air
" and dignity of the churchwarden;
" turned aſide to a woman who was
" juſt then aſking for a pound of
" Cheſhire, and, without addreſſing
" himſelf to me, cried out, 'This is the
' fourth parſon I have had with me to-
' day upon the ſame errand;' " then,
" ſtaring me full in the face, ' Well,
' young man,' ſays he, ' you intend
' to be a candidate for this ſame
' lecture; you are all to mount the
' *noſtrum*, I ſuppoſe, and merit will
' carry it; for my part, I promiſe
' nobody; but remember, I tell you
' beforehand, I am for *voice* and
' *action*, ſo mind your hits.' " When
" he had ſaid this, he immediately

" turned

" turned upon his heel, and went into " the counting-houſe. I took my " leave in an awkward manner, as " you may ſuppoſe, being not a little " chagrined at his inſolence; and as I " went out of the ſhop, overheard his " lady obſerving, from behind the " counter, that I was a pretty *ſprig of* " *divinity*, but looked a little *ſheepiſh*, " and had not half the courage of the " gentleman that had been recom- " mended to her huſband by Mr. " *Squintum*."

Theſe are ſome of the mortifications lecturers are ſubject to; and then as to their pay, and the manner in which they are paid, it adds ſtill further to the contempt they lie under. The church-wardens of a pariſh once waited on a quaker, a tin-man within their limits, with the lecturer's book, and ſolicited his contribution towards the ſupport of the afternoon ſermon. " Thou knoweſt, " friend," ſays he, " that we give no-

" thing to thy clergy." 'I admit that,' returns one of the church-wardens, 'but he is a worthy gentleman, and a 'good preacher, and you would ſay 'ſo, if you heard him; I hope, there-'fore, as our pariſh is ſmall, and we 'cannot make up any great ſum, that 'you will add to it for the ſake of 'your neighbours.' The quaker repeated his words as before; and they were leaving his ſhop when he called them back, with " Hark'ye, friend; " though I told thee, we quakers never " give any thing towards the ſupport " of thy clergy, yet, as mayhap he " may want *light*,—I'll gee'un a *lan-* " *tern.*"

" The lecturer's box," continues my friend, " generally goes about with " the reſt of the pariſh beggars, a " little before Chriſtmas, and every " body throws in their charity (for it " is always conſidered in that light) " as they think proper. Were I to " mention

" mention how many paltry excuſes
" are made to evade this little annual
" tribute, by the mean and ſordid;
" how very little is given even by the
" moſt generous, and what an incon-
" ſiderable ſum the whole generally
" amounts to, the recital would not
" afford my readers much entertain-
" ment, and for aught I know, might
" give them ſome real concern. A
" lecturer, 'tis true, is licenſed by the
" biſhop, and of courſe cannot be re-
" moved; but notwithſtanding this,
" he is far from independent: if he
" ſhews any marks of diſpleaſure, or
" does not pleaſe his congregation,
" he feels it at the next collection;
" and when they are tired of him,
" they withhold their ſubſcriptions,
" and (as they call it) *ſtarve* him
" out.

" You cannot imagine," proceeds my friend, " with what an envious
" eye we poor lecturers have often

" looked over a waiter's book at a " coffee-houſe, where I have ſeen ſuch " a collection of *guineas* and *half-* " *guineas*, as made my mouth water. " To give leſs than a crown would be " to the laſt degree ungenteel, for the " immenſe trouble of handing a diſh " of coffee, or a newſpaper; whilſt " the poor divine, who has toiled in " the miniſtry for a twelvemonth, and " half worn out a pair of excellent " lungs in the unprofitable ſervice, " ſhall think himſelf well rewarded " with the noble donation of *half a* " *crown*.

" I know a little too much of the " world, to expect that a parſon ſhould " be paid like a firſt-rate player, a " pimp, or a l-d of the treaſury, " whoſe incomes, I believe, are nearly " equal; but I cannot help thinking, " that a *labourer in the vineyard* is as " well worthy his hire, as a journey- " man carver or maſon, and has as

" good

" good a right to two pound two on a
" *Sunday* as they have on a Saturday
" night; and yet not one in an hun-
" dred is paid in that proportion.

" To illuſtrate my ſubject, I will
" give my readers another ſtory;
" there is nothing like a little paint-
" ing from the life on theſe occaſions.
" Suppoſe yourſelf then an eye-witneſs
" of the following ſcene, which paſſed
" not long ſince in the neighbourhood
" of Covent-Garden."

*Enter* Twiſt *the church-warden, accompanied by the overſeer, into the ſhop of Mr.* Prim *the mercer.*

*Prim.* " Well, Mr. *Twiſt*, what
" are your commands with me?"

*Twiſt.* " We are come to wait on
" your honour with the lecturer's
" book;" ' Sir, *(reads)* a voluntary
' contribution of the inhabitants of the
' pariſh of St. Paul, Covent-Garden—
' for the ſupport of ——.'

*Prim.* "Well, well, you need not "read any farther; what is it?"

*Twiſt.* "Whatever you pleaſe, Sir."

*Prim.* "Aye, here's another load, "another burden; d'ye think I am "made of gold? There's the poor's "rate, the doctor's rate, the win-"dow rates, the devil's in the rates "I think!—However, I can't refuſe "*you*;—but I'll not give another year. "Here, *Buckram*, reach me half a "crown out of the till. Your ſervant, "Madam.—*(A lady comes out of the "back parlour, walks through the ſhop, "and gets into a chair.)*—Aye, there's "another tax, a guinea for two box "tickets, as ſure as the benefit comes "round, for my wife and daughter, "beſides chair hire."

*Twiſt (ſhaking his head).* "O "Maſter Prim, Maſter Prim! Had "not you better now have given us a "guinea for the Doctor and his four "children, and reſerved your half-

"crown

" crown for the lady, who, if I may
" judge from her garb, does not want
" it, half ſo much as the poor parſon?
" But you will be in the faſhion, ſo
" give us your mite. Set down Mr.
" Prim, two ſhillings and ſix-pence."

" Such is the force of example, the
" influence of faſhion, that a conſtant
" church-goer, and one perhaps who
" fancies himſelf a very good chriſtian,
" ſhall throw away *one pound one*, with
" all the pleaſure imaginable, for an
" evening's entertainment at the thea-
" tre, and at the ſame time grudge
" *half a crown* for two and fifty diſ-
" courſes from the *pulpit;* which, if
" he turns to his arithmetic book, he
" will ſee amounts to about three far-
" things a ſermon—and a *ſober* citizen
" too,—as Lady Townly ſays,—Fye,
" Fye!"

In ſhort, ſuch are the mortifications to which the inferior clergy are expoſed, that if I had a ſon to bring up,

and could not give him either a fortune or a good living, I would ſooner make a *coal-heaver* of him than a *parſon*.

## CHAP. IX.

*Becomes ſervant to a Procureſs. A ſtrange Adventure in this Houſe.*

I WAS now once more maſter of myſelf, and had an employment to ſeek; but was very low in caſh, ſo low, that I could not remain long out of place. I had recourſe again to the newſpapers, and applied as the following advertiſement directed me: "Wanted a ſmart young man as foot-"man to a lady." She lived in a well-furniſhed houſe, in a genteel ſtreet at the weſt end of the town; I went in the morning, and was introduced to her whilſt at her breakfaſt. As I was pretty well dreſſed, and came into the room, perhaps, in a manner different from what footmen in general do, ſhe

roſe from her ſeat; and when I told her I waited on her in conſequence of her advertiſement, ſhe ſeemed rather confuſed, and ſaid, "She preſumed, "that either I did not apply for my-"ſelf, or that her place would be be-"low my acceptance, for that *her* ſer-"vant muſt wear a livery." I told her, "an overthrow in life had hum-"bled my mind, and reconciled it to "any ſituation that was not diſhoneſt "or laborious, and that as to wearing "the livery of a lady, it was what my "ſuperiors would be proud of." She ſeemed to ſmile at my anſwer, and doubt my ſincerity, and "freely ac-"knowledged that my manner and "language would do credit to a gentle-"man." She aſked me if I had ever lived in the capacity of a ſervant? I told her, "I had, and ſhould be happy "to be her's." A very few words further paſſed between us, ſhe conde-ſcended to ſay, "She was ſo pleaſed "with

" with my appearance, that ſhe ſhould " inquire no further about me, and " that I carried too much honeſty in " my face to need any other recom- " mendation." She ſaid, " ſhe had " engaged a ſervant, but that ſhe " would put him off, and take me in " his ſtead; that her place was not a " fatiguing one, it was little more than " to wait upon herſelf; and that if I " would accept of it with eighteen " guineas a year, and a livery, I might " come as ſoon as I pleaſed." I bowed an aſſent, and told her, " I would at- " tend her the Monday following." She gave me a direction to her taylor, in order to get a new livery, and deſired I would make my firſt appearance in it.—The livery was white, faced and lined with pale blue, ſilver buttons and epaulet, with a waiſtcoat of the colour of the facings, laced with ſilver, blue pluſh breeches, and ſilver laced hat; and the taylor having made

it ſmart, and to fit me exactly, paid me the compliment to ſay, that "*I* "rather graced the livery, than the "livery *me*; and among all the ſer-"vants he had dreſſed, he had never "ſeen one that became his clothes ſo "well." It is rather an awkward taſk to be under the neceſſity of ſounding one's own praiſe; but as the reader can hear nothing of one who writes his own life, but from the mouth of him who guides the pen; and as he may wiſh to have ſome little deſcription of my perſon, the following is the ſimpleſt account I can give. I was, at the time I am now ſpeaking of, a ſtrait well-made man, five feet nine inches high, of a middling ſize, neither too corpulent nor too thin, juſt turned of twenty, dark hair, and a great deal of it; had a good ſet of teeth; and if glaſſes told truth, a ſpeaking countenance, and a penetrating eye. I was given to underſtand, that I had a graceful figure,

an

an inſinuating addreſs, and the manner of a gentleman; with theſe perfections and accompliſhments, and the education I had received, with a good flow of ſpirits, and ſanguine health, it muſt have been wonderful, had I not puſhed on through life as well as I have done. I muſt own, that whenever I fell, it was through the impetuoſity of paſſions, the heedleſſneſs of youth, or want of worldly knowledge. I ſet out with very few expectations, and fewer friends; but I had philoſophy enough to acquire a certain degree of fortitude, and was determined to be a coſmopolite, and take the world as it goes.

Having arranged my little matters at the houſe where I lodged, I dreſſed my hair in the moſt faſhionable manner, which from cuſtom I was expert at, put on a ruffled ſhirt, ſilk ſtockings, and a pair of Artois buckles; and when I ſurveyed myſelf in the glaſs, dreſſed as I was in my new clothes,

clothes, I thought myſelf a complete coxcomb: however, as I flattered myſelf, from the livery my miſtreſs gave, and her being pleaſed with my appearance, ſhe would not like me the worſe for that, I ſent my trunk to her houſe by a porter on the Monday I had promiſed to go, and followed it ſoon after myſelf.

My lady was a woman about forty years of age, that ſeemed to have been handſome in her youth; her figure was rather *en bon point*, and ſhe paſſed for a widow under the name of Duplex. On my coming to her houſe, ſhe ſent for me up ſtairs; and I could perceive, was not a little pleaſed with the figure I made. She told me that I became my livery exceedingly well, that ſhe kept a boy to clean ſhoes and knives, and that all ſhe expected of me, was to wait at table, and attend upon *her*. Having inquired my name, "Gabriel," ſays ſhe, "you ſeem to be a young

"man

" man of uncommon good ſenſe; I " preſume I need not tell you, that " ſervants ſhould carry nothing out of " the families they live with, nor ſee " any thing they ought not to ſee. " If you attend to this, and are in- " duſtrious and civil, you will find me " exceedingly good to you."

I had not been a fortnight in this houſe, before I diſcovered that my miſtreſs was one of thoſe convenient *obliging* women, who adminiſtered to the pleaſures of others. She was not, in the true ſenſe of the word, a procureſs, nor did ſhe keep ladies of eaſy virtue under the roof with her; but her houſe was rather in the ſtile of a private bagnio, where men of fortune might find an aſylum with their ladies, for an hour, a night, or a week, as it ſuited them. Many a married woman has here met her gallant; and many an unmarried one her ſweetheart; ſhe had a variety of apartments in her houſe

houſe well calculated for their reception, where different parties might be entertained with the wiſhed-for privacy. She had not the leaſt conception of my finding this out, thoſe that came having always paſſed for her friends; and my fellow-ſervants, who had not *my* penetration, were kept in the dark. I might, if I pleaſed, have continued long in the ſervice of this woman, had not an event taken place, which gave birth to a variety of future embarraſſments in the courſe of my life. My miſtreſs was particularly kind to me, and would familiarly converſe with me all the time I was waiting on her. She took ſome pains to draw me aſide from the narrow path of rectitude, and gave me many broad hints of the favours ſhe had in ſtore for me. She would frequently ring the bell, and call me to her toilet, even before ſhe had well adjuſted her dreſs; aſk my opinion of female beauty, and

often

often deſire me to tell her, whether her handkerchief was put on to advantage. "Gabriel," ſays ſhe one day to me, leering under her hat,—"You "cannot have been in many places; "pretty young fellows like you are "ſoon taken out of ſervitude. You "ſhan't wear a livery long, but ſhall "be groom of my bed-chamber.— "What ſay you, Gabriel? Should "you like ſuch an office?"—I plainly ſaw at what ſhe directed her artillery; but ſhe was a woman that did not pleaſe me, and I will be honeſt enough to own, that averſion had more weight with me than principle. She was at all times very inquiſitive about my family and connexions, and was very importunate to know where I acquired thoſe accompliſhments, ſhe was pleaſed to ſay I poſſeſſed; but, as I did not mean to continue longer with her than I could help, I was reſerved in my anſwers, and reſpectful, though very diſtant,

diſtant, in my replies. "She told me, "ſhe expected a young lady from the "country in a day or two, to be with "her ſome time; that a family differ- "ence would oblige her to leave "home, and that her being with her "was to be a ſecret; of courſe, if I "could keep a cloſe mouth, I ſhould "be amply rewarded; and that I was "by no means to communicate to my "fellow-ſervants any thing I might "hear or ſee above ſtairs." I replied, "that ſhe might rely on my fidelity," with which ſhe ſeemed ſatisfied. I was the more diſpleaſed with my miſtreſs, as I conceived her to be of a profeſſion, the moſt deſtructive to female virtue, and the greateſt bane to domeſtic happineſs of any exiſting. The pride of many an honeſt family had been overthrown, I underſtood, by her; and many a virtuous girl had owed her ruin to her officiouſneſs. That there are many of her ſtamp in the

the great metropolis, is too evident to be doubted, and that they are not made public examples of, is very much to be lamented! The young lady my miſtreſs mentioned was brought to our houſe one morning, by a gentleman in a hackney coach. She appeared to be about ſeventeen, and was one of the prettieſt young women, I think, I ever beheld; with ſuch a ſweetneſs of expreſſion, and ſuch a virgin modeſty about her, as attracted all my attention, and made me inſtantly conceive ſomething treacherous in her ſtory. The gentleman that accompanied her ſeemed to be a man of faſhion, about thirty years of age; and I could ſee, that on his introducing her to my miſtreſs, ſhe had never ſeen her before. The affair appeared to me myſterious; I felt myſelf ſomehow or other intereſted in her cauſe, and was determined, if ſhe was incautiouſly ſeduced into this houſe, to watch her virtue,

virtue, with as much care and aſſiduity as if ſhe had been my ſiſter. The gentleman dined with her, ſtaid the greateſt part of the day, but left her in the evening. He continued his viſits, in like manner, the next day, and the day after, and during the times I was waiting on them, I could diſcover nothing more than that induſtrious attention, which polite men generally pay to the object of their affections. She ſeemed to take a more than common notice of me, and obſerved to my miſtreſs, which I overheard, when in the next room, that ſhe was perſuaded, from my manner, that I muſt have been brought up a gentleman. Things went on pretty ſmooth for two or three days, when my miſtreſs took an opportunity to go out, and left them to themſelves. Her viſit was to M—— the ſurgeon and toothdrawer, to have her teeth examined; and ſuch is the preſent folly of the world, that this man's price is ten

ten guineas yearly, and fifty guineas entrance, to keep the mouth in order, though his ignorance is beyond expreſſion. Having a gentleman under his care with a venereal complaint that affected his mouth, he boaſted in the cure, of having loſt him only *one* jaw. But to return: they drank tea alone, and I waited at tea, and nothing happened to increaſe my ſuſpicions till about nine in the evening, when I heard a clattering of the chairs, and their voices rather louder than ordinary. This put me upon the watch, and preſently I heard her ſcream with all her powers. I inſtantly flew up ſtairs, darted into the room, and found her fainting on the ſopha, and he in a ſituation better conceived than deſcribed, but very declaratory of his wicked intentions. On ſeeing me enter the room, he ſeized me by the collar, with "Raſcal, who ſent for "*you?* Get out of the room this in-

"ſtant,

" ſtant, or I'll be the death of you;" catching hold of his ſword, which he drew, " I told him the lady " ſeemed to need protection, and I " would defend her with my life." The poor young creature, that moment recovering her ſenſes, begged of me, " for God's ſake, to continue with " her, and ſave her from ruin." The gentleman, on the other hand, in the utmoſt rage, and puſhing me from him, inſiſted on my leaving the room, or he'd run me through the body; and finding me determined not to obey his injunctions, unarmed as I was, he made a lunge at me, which having parried with my hand, I cloſed in upon him and diſarmed him. The young lady ſcreamed and fainted again, and her raviſher took up his hat, hurried down ſtairs, and made the beſt of his way out of the houſe. He was no ſooner gone, than I aſſiſted her with ſome hartſhorn, which I found on the

mantle-piece, and brought her to her ſpeech. Seeing herſelf free from her violator, ſhe called me her deliverer, thanked me, in the warmeſt terms, for ſtanding forth in her defence, and hoped I was not hurt; for when ſhe ſaw him draw his ſword, ſhe expected nothing leſs than my murder. I told her I was noway hurt but to ſee her ſo ill-treated, that he had endeavoured to run his ſword through me, but that, from ſome knowledge I had of the uſe of that weapon, I had eſcaped the threatened miſchief, and had diſarmed him; that he had left me in poſſeſſion of his ſword and was gone, and that I eſteemed myſelf ſingularly happy in having been her protector. She roſe from the ſopha, walked acroſs the room to a chair, and begged me by no means to leave her, but to ſit down and concert ſome means with her, of getting her out of that houſe, which, from many circumſtances, ſhe ſuſpected to be

be of no reputation. " She told me,
" that ſhe was the daughter of a pri-
" vate gentleman of good family and
" fortune, that her name was Wild-
" man, that the perſon who had ſo
" treated her, was a man of rank who
" had ſolicited her hand in marriage;
" but his father being alive, and he
" not being able to make a ſufficient
" ſettlement on her, her father had
" oppoſed the match; that this gentle-
" man, however, having gained her
" affections, ſhe had been ſo impru-
" dent as to leave her home, and come
" here with him, as into the houſe of
" a friend; where they were private-
" ly to be married and wait the recon-
" ciliation of her father; that under a
" variety of frivolous pretences he had
" delayed the ceremony, and ſhe now
" ſaw the drift of his baſe intentions;
" that his conduct had at once obli-
" terated every ſpark of her attach-
" ment, and that, if poſſible, ſhe now

" hated

" hated him more than ever ſhe loved " him." This being her ſtory, " ſhe " aſked me what I thought ſhe had " beſt do?" " I told her frankly, that " I thought the ſooner ſhe was out of " this houſe the better, for reaſons, if " ſhe pleaſed, I would hereafter give " her; that as ſhe ſeemed determined " not to purſue the motives that led " her to leave her father's houſe, " namely, that of giving her hand to " a man who had ſuch deſigning " views upon her honour, I would by " all means adviſe her to return, ac- " knowledge her indiſcretion to her " father, and as he would now, from " what had paſſed, have no reaſon to " dread her elopement with the ſame " perſon in future, I flattered myſelf " he would readily forgive her."— This advice ſhe immediately cloſed with, and was anxious to leave the houſe before my miſtreſs returned; I encouraged the ſtep, told her, " if ſhe

" thought proper, I would fetch a " coach from the ſtand at the end of " the ſtreet, and attend her home." She agreed to this; I called a coach, handed her into it, in the preſence of two of the maid-ſervants who were ſtanding in the paſſage, and having privately told the coachman to drive to Berkley-ſquare, where her father lived, I got up behind, and the coach drove from the door.

## CHAP. X.

### *A Continuation of the laſt Chapter.*

WHEN we were got two or three ſtreets length from the houſe, ſhe ſtopped the coach, and begged to ſpeak to me. It was to direct me to knock but a ſingle rap at the door, and to tell the ſervant that opened it, that ſhe wiſhed her father not to know of her return, till ſhe had ſeen her mother. When we reached the houſe, I obeyed her directions; ſhe parted with me at the door, but deſired me not to ſay who ſhe was, nor where I had left her; and if I could get out in the morning, that I would be with her between eleven and twelve. On my return home I found my miſtreſs was above, and that ſhe was extremely

angry with the ſteps I had taken. As ſoon as ſhe heard I was in the houſe, the bell was rung, and I appeared before her. "Gabriel," ſays ſhe, with warmth, "what is this you have done? "Where have you left Miſs?" I gave her a particular account of every thing that I knew had happened in her abſence; and as I had determined to quit her ſervice, I gave her to underſtand, that ſhe had a great deal to anſwer for; that from the ſtory ſhe had told me, prior to the young lady's coming to her houſe, I was convinced that ſhe was privy to the ſcheme laid for her deſtruction, and that I eſteemed myſelf particularly fortunate in being the cauſe of its prevention. "Where "have you carried her to?" ſays ſhe. "That Ma'am," replied I, "I am "not at liberty to divulge; ſhe is, I "truſt, in ſafe hands, and out of the "way of any ſimilar danger."— "Hark ye, Gabriel," ſays ſhe, "you

"may

" may poſſibly think yourſelf exceed-
" ingly clever, but I muſt tell you that
" you are a very impudent fellow, to
" take any ſuch liberties in a houſe
" where you are only a ſervant. But
" I deſerve it, in taking you without
" a character; the only thing that
" vexes me is, that I ſhould have been
" at any expence for ſo worthleſs a
" ſcoundrel. However, ſtrip and turn
" out, you ſhall not lay another night
" under my roof." " Madam," re-
plied I, " was you to reflect a mo-
" ment, you would be careful not to
" irritate one that has you ſo much in
" his power; if it was not for the
" means it has afforded me of reſcu-
" ing a deluded young lady from the
" violence of a raviſher, I ſhould regret
" the hour of coming within your
" doors; as it is, Madam, I eſteem
" myſelf happy in having entered
" your ſervice, and ſhall think myſelf
" equally ſo, in quitting it. I am di-

" rected to aſk you for the ſmall " trunk belonging to the lady, which " if you think proper to deliver, it " may ſave a further enquiry into your " conduct, and I ſhall then leave *your* " clothes and take my own." " Oh! " I might have it," ſhe ſaid, " She " wanted nothing belonging to the " minx, nor ever deſired to hear of " either of us again!" Accordingly having got her trunk, I called a coach, put off her finery, dreſſed myſelf in my own clothes, took leave of my fellow-ſervants, and made the beſt of my way to my former lodging, where, though late at night, I found an admiſſion.

The next morning I waited on Miſs Wildman, at the appointed time, who, appearing in a morning dreſs, ſeemed lovely in the extreme; and I had the pleaſure to receive, from her angelic tongue, her grateful thanks for her miraculous preſervation. She told me, ſhe

ſhe was " ſtill more obliged to me for " the advice I had given her, which " had reconciled her to the beſt of pa- " rents, and without which ſhe ſhould " have forfeited that love ſhe never " was ſo ſenſible of till now." She aſked me " what reception I had met " with from my miſtreſs on my re- " turn?" I related every particular, and told her " I had brought away her " trunk: and though I had loſt my " place, I did not fear getting another, " having done no otherwiſe than as " juſtice and duty had compelled me." She gave me to underſtand that " her " father wiſhed to ſee me, and begged " I would ſtay in the ſervants hall, till " he had an opportunity of ſpeaking " with me." I was no ſooner at liber- ty, but the ſervants flocked about me, and thanked me by their looks, as well as words, for reſtoring to them their loſt young lady; they told me how much ſhe was beloved by the whole

family, and how much they feared their maſter would never more have received her; but they were joyfully diſappointed; that her contrition for her conduct had wrought her reconciliation ſo effectually, that they believed her father and mother loved her now more affectionately than ever.

Mr. Wildman ſoon ſent for me up, and, with tears in his eyes, thanked me for having been the deliverer of his child; he ſaid, "ſhe had ſeen, he "believed, her indiſcretion, had repented of her conduct, and of courſe "was more endeared to him than "ever:" he told me, "ſhe had acquainted him with ſo much of the "ſtory, as her ſenſes permitted her to "be witneſs of; and he would be "glad to hear the remainder from "*me*." I related it to him in the manner it happened, and when I had finiſhed the tale, he, with a degree of enraptured enthuſiaſm, flew to me and embraced

embraced me; blubbered out the ſentiments of a grateful heart, for the kindneſs I had done both him and her, and aſſured me he would be a friend to me for ever. "There was a gal-"lantry," he ſaid, "and greatneſs in "my conduct, that would do honour "to the firſt of characters; and as he "heard I had loſt my place in the "cauſe, he would take me into his "ſervice, and I ſhould be immediately "about his perſon." He put into my hand a fifty pound bank-note, and told me he would give me one every year, whilſt I thought proper to continue with him. Poor as I was, I modeſtly refuſed the note, ſaying, "I was amply "gratified in having merited his good "wiſhes, and his daughter's:" but he replied, "Fifty pounds, he hoped, "would not hurt me," and inſiſted on my taking it. He then told me, he could employ his preſent valet at an eſtate he had in the country, and I

might come to him when I thought proper; I accepted his propoſal, and replied, that, " if agreeable to him, I " would attend him the next day." Matters being thus adjuſted, I returned to my lodging, and prepared to remove my little baggage the next morning; but curioſity leading me to enquire at Mrs. Duplex's, whether the gentleman had called for or ſent for his ſword, or whether my fellow-ſervants had heard their miſtreſs ſay any thing concerning me, I called there in the evening, under pretence of returning a cork-ſcrew I had inadvertently taken away in my pocket, and was admitted privately into the kitchen; where I was ſoon told that the gentleman had been there for his ſword, and that both he and my miſtreſs had vowed vengeance againſt me, whenever they could find me. I ſmiled at their menaces, and left the houſe as ſecretly as I entered it.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XI.

*Gets into another Service. The Unhappineſs of a domeſtic Favourite. On faſhionable Viſiting.*

THE next day put me in poſſeſſion of my new place, to which I was the more eager to go, as it would give me an opportunity of occaſionally ſeeing Miſs Wildman, an attachment to whom, I found, *maugre* the great diſtance between us, grew inſenſibly upon me; and dangerous and fruitleſs as the thought might be, I could not but indulge it. I called to my remembrance, that, in the courſe of my reading, far more unlikely things had come to paſs than what I coveted. She had now no *penchant* for any man; the late ob-

ject of her affections, from his villainous conduct, was become odious to her; ſhe had noticed me, even before the late accident happened, in a very favourable light;—ſhe ſeemed endowed with an uncommon ſhare of ſenſibility:—ſhe owed me attention—ſhe owed me *gratitude;*—and ſhe called me her protector and deliverer.—On the other hand,—I was conſcious in having been bred up a gentleman—of having had a liberal education—of having good connexions, and being allied to a good family and fortune; for my father's uncle, though he would do nothing for me, was poſſeſſed of an eſtate of four thouſand pounds a year, and there were only two perſons, the children of my father's elder brother, between me and that eſtate, and theſe perſons unmarried.—With ſuch chimerical, ſuch idle notions, did I now and then amuſe myſelf. I was determined, however, not to offend the family

family I was in; but to watch and wait patiently for that critical moment, if ever it ſhould arrive, that might give a more favourable turn to my pretenſions. Our family conſiſted of my maſter, my miſtreſs, and their daughter, who were Roman Catholics, and of a great number of ſervants; and it ſeemed a very happy one, when I firſt became a part of it; but, as I was a favourite up ſtairs, I ſoon became obnoxious below. I ſtudied all I could to conciliate the affections of my fellow-ſervants; but that dæmon Jealouſy, which ſeldom takes poſſeſſion of the human mind, but it makes it ſee things through a falſe medium, and gives a different colour to tranſactions, than what they naturally bear; this Jealouſy poiſoned all their tempers, and every thing they did for me was more than I deſerved: my ſhoes and buckles were not half-cleaned; the knife I was to eat with, did not cut;

the bread I was helped to, was dry; the beer flat; and as I was generally attending upon my maſter, at the uſual time of breakfaſt, in the houſe-keeper's room; when I came down to eat mine, the muffins were gone, the water was cold, and the cream was ſlopped. In ſhort, there ſeemed to be a conſpiracy againſt me, and for no fault of mine that I was conſcious of; I was too much of a gentleman for a ſervant; I wanted two or three to wait upon me, and I ſtudied nothing but dreſs, affected airs, and fine language.—I bore all this very patiently; for what will not a perſon bear with a favourite object in view? I imputed their conduct to ignorance and low-breeding, and prided myſelf in returning good for evil. My maſter, who uſed always to converſe with me when I was dreſſing, would treat me more as a friend than as a ſervant, and with a degree of concern would often complain

complain to me of the conduct of his people below; at which times I always took pains to excuſe their faults, and explain away their errors; but this availed me but little, they were not ſenſible of my good wiſhes towards them; and hated me, merely becauſe I was beloved by their maſter and miſtreſs. All I could do, in the preſent ſituation of things, was to make a friend of Miſs Wildman's maid, and which I aimed at, for more reaſons than one; as it would facilitate my intercourſe with her miſtreſs; and ſhe was diſpoſed to get me my breakfaſt, which was my beſt meal, in her own room. She was a good-natured woman, about thirty years of age, and greatly in her young lady's favour. Through her, I learned that Miſs Wildman had expreſſed the higheſt regard for me, and wiſhed for an opportunity of being of uſe to me: ſhe had frequently obſerved to her maid,

as

as ſhe had done to Mrs. Duplex, that I had the manner of a gentleman, and was ſure, though in the ſituation of a ſervant, I had received a gentleman's education, and that her father and mother were of the ſame opinion; for that they had never remarked in any ſervant they had met with, that good ſenſe, that gallantry, that reſpectful attention, and that inſinuating addreſs that marked my character; and that ſhe was anxious to know my hiſtory. Through this ſame channel I made her acquainted with every thing concerning me; of which the reader is too well informed to need a repetition here; and as far as I dared to do, I made Charlotte underſtand, which was the name of Miſs Wildman's maid, that though I ventured my life in the defence of her miſtreſs, and was too much her friend to wiſh her in any perilous ſituation again, yet I ſhould rejoice in a ſecond opportunity of convincing

vincing her how much I had her ſafety at heart. This I foreſaw would be carried to Miſs Wildman, for Charlotte had too much of the waiting-maid about her, not to take pleaſure in carrying tales backwards and forwards. Had I been butler in the family, I ſhould have had frequent opportunities of being in her preſence; but, in the capacity of her father's valet, I ſeldom could ſee her. Now and then ſhe would come into her maid's room whilſt we were at breakfaſt, and ſit and chat with us. The firſt time I ſaw her upon this occaſion, I roſe reſpectfully from my ſeat, at which ſhe ſeemed hurt. "Gabriel," ſays ſhe, "I "am much obliged to Charlotte for "her attention to *you*; any reſpect ſhe "ſhews you will be gratefully acknow-"ledged by *me*; for to you I am in-"debted for every thing." I humbly told her "ſhe rated my ſervices too "high; for, independent of any pro-

"tection

" tection due to ſuffering innocence, " ſuch merits as Miſs Wildman could " boaſt of, laid the ſtrongeſt claim to " every neceſſary interference." She told me, " that ſhe frequently came " into her maid's room to ſpeak with " her; but, if it diſturbed me, or put " me the leaſt out of my way, ſhe " would never enter it again: and it " was her requeſt in future, that I " ſhould not notice her coming in." I replied, that " as a command of " her's, I ſhould obey it." At theſe occaſional interviews, ſhe would be affable and familiar; and once ſhe condeſcended to tell me, " that Lord " B. who was the ſon of the Earl of " A. and who had treated her ſo ill, " had made ſeveral applications for " leave to renew his addreſſes to her; " but ſhe was determined never to " liſten to him more. Her heart," ſhe ſaid, " was her own again, and ſhe " hoped ſhe ſhould have ſufficient

" diſcern-

" diſcernment and reſolution never to " beſtow it more upon a worthleſs " object." " Charlotte," ſays ſhe, one day, to her maid (for Charlotte told it me again), " was I miſtreſs of " my own fortune, I don't know but " I would beſtow it upon Gabriel: " he appears to be a young man of " ſuch nice honour, and ſuch virtuous " ſentiments, as would be an orna- " ment to any line of life he may be " thrown into." ' I aſſure you, Miſs, ' ſays Charlotte, it would not be ill ' beſtowed, for Gabriel is the ſon of a ' gentleman, has had the beſt of edu- ' cations, and, though now in the ca- ' pacity of a ſervant, has an eſtate of ' four thouſand pounds a year in ex- ' pectation.' In ſhort, ſhe made her miſtreſs acquainted with many parts of my hiſtory, ſuch as I had let her into.

It was a practice with me in every ſcene of life into which I was thrown, to acquire all the information I could reſpect-

reſpecting that ſcene; here then I learned the fatigue and abſurdity of a faſhionable life, and the tireſome round of diſſipation attending it. My maſter, in one of his converſable moments, told me, there was no ſatisfaction in the viſits men of faſhion paid to each other, and that he had *cut* * it long ſince. "Viſits among the great," he ſaid, "were merely ceremonial, and "rather troubleſome than otherwiſe; "he had viſited a man for ſeven years "together, and never once had ſeen "him." Indeed, I heard, myſelf, a gentleman once ſay to a lady, who rated him for not calling oftener to ſee her, "It is your ladyſhip's fault en-"tirely.—I would come oftener, if "you would not let me in." Nay, viſiting is allowed to be ſo much a ceremony, that I have been told of a lady, who, having omitted to tell her

* *Cut* is a faſhionable term for, given it up.

porter

porter that ſhe did not chuſe to be ſeen, put her head out of window, and called out to her viſitant, on knocking at the door, " I am not at " home." Frequently has my maſter told me, that in the younger part of his life, he and his lady received ſo many invitations on the ſame day, that they have been obliged to divide themſelves, and go from one houſe to another, ſhewing themſelves each at two or three places on the ſame evening; and on my aſking whether it would not have been better to have omitted going to more places than one? he replied, " No, nothing but illneſs (if " in town) is an excuſe for non- " attendance; if an invitation is once " or twice unaccepted, the party will " be aſked no more."—John, our porter, has entertained me, frequently, for a long time together, with viſiting relations. He told me, when ladies have ſo many viſits to return, that they cannot

cannot perſonally pay them, it is not an unuſual thing to ſend the empty chair, which, ſtopping at the end of the ſtreet, the footman ſteps forward to the houſe, knocks gently at the door, and aſks the porter confidentially, if his lady ſees company; if anſwered in the negative, he knocks hard, beckons to the chairman to come up, and leaves a card; if anſwered in the affirmative, no notice is taken, but they proceed to another houſe. To avoid, however, this troubleſome piece of buſineſs, gentlemen will now leave their names at the door, without enquiring for the maſter, or attempting to go in; and ladies will ſend their ſervants to do the ſame; and the delivery of ſuch card ſhall be conſtrued as a viſit made and returned. And what is all this but farce and tireſome ceremony? the end of viſiting is ſocial intercourſe and friendly converſe; but this mode of viſiting deſtroys that end. A modern viſitant

viſitant ſeems to dread the meeting of a private friend, as if he was fearful his conduct ſhould be enquired into and cenſured, and as if he abhorred the neceſſity of ſaying a civil thing to his acquaintance. Whatever theſe people may think, ſuch conduct is diſgraceful, and muſt ariſe from want of abilities to join in general topics, or from fearing reflection, as owls fear the day-light.

## CHAP. XII.

*Miſs Wildman declares her Paſſion for our Author. A St. Giles's Lodging deſcribed. He leaves London.*

MISS Wildman having opened herſelf ſo much to her maid reſpecting me, and which conceiving could be ſaid only with a view of my hearing it again, I took an opportunity one morning, when ſhe came into Charlotte's room, to requeſt her private ear for five minutes. With great and amiable good-nature, ſhe ſent her maid into her room, to adjuſt her toilet, when I addreſſed her in the following manner: "If it be not an act of the "higheſt preſumption, Madam, for "one in *my* humble ſtation in life

"to

" to declare an attachment to a young " lady of your rank and fortune; if it " be not an offence againſt propriety " and duty, to ſolicit your attention to " any tale of *mine;* I would venture " to repreſent to you, that though " you ſee me here, as your father's " valet, I am a gentleman both by " birth and education, and am not a " great way removed from a very con- " ſiderable landed property. There " is an eſtate of four thouſand pounds " a year in the family, and my hopes " of one day inheriting it are not wild " and romantic. I mention this only " to induce your favourable hearing." —" Mr. Gabriel," ſaid ſhe, interrupting me, " from the time I firſt ſaw " you, I was convinced, that, though " wearing a livery, you were bred to " better expectations;—but as you " have been the preſerver of my ho- " nour, and have riſked your life in " my defence, whether ſervant or

" maſter, you are equally intitled to my " regard and gratitude."—" Talk not " of gratitude! my dear Miſs Wild- " man," exclaimed I; for her ſweet condeſcenſion gave me greater confidence, " talk not of gratitude; what " I did, was a duty due from my ſex to " your's; and if it merits your ſimple " thanks, I am over-paid. My hum- " ble character in life will not ſuffer " me to make advances, but ſhould " fortune, at any future period, put " us nearer on an equality, may I hope " for ſomething more than your re- " gard?"—" I am of too ſelfiſh a na- " ture," returned Miſs Wildman, " not to acknowledge, that were I " miſtreſs of worlds, you have de- " ſerved them all. I have a heart, it " is true, to give again, but what is " my poor heart without my hand? " *That* is at my father's diſpoſal; was " it at my command, I would enter " further into the ſubject." " A thou-

" ſand

" ſand bleſſings on you, my dear Miſs " Wildman, for this generous decla- " ration," cried I, in rapture, taking her hand, which ſhe readily gave me, " let me extort but one declaration " more, and, poor as I am, I ſhall be " the happieſt of men." " Your good " ſenſe, Mr. Gabriel," returned ſhe, " will, I am perſuaded, prevent your " urging me to ſay any thing I ought " not to ſay: what I am miſtreſs of, " you may command; what I have " not to give, you cannot expect." " I have too high a veneration for you, " my dear Miſs Wildman," replied I, ſtill holding her by the hand, " to urge " the leaſt impropriety: you have " frankly confeſſed your heart is ſtill " at liberty, but not your hand; I aſk " not your hand at preſent, but ſolicit " only your heart, and that you will " give me a chance, by time, of poſ- " ſeſſing the former; at leaſt, that you " will promiſe me not to beſtow the

" one where you cannot yield the " other." This ſhe ſolemnly promiſed: " Her heart," ſhe ſaid, " I " had won, and it was mine; ſhe had " only to lament that ſhe could not " give her hand as readily." Charlotte that inſtant entering the room, ſhe left me, but ſaid ſhe would take the firſt opportunity of ſeeing me again.

She kept her word the next morning, and brought me an enamelled ring, of no great value indeed, otherwiſe than as a proof of having re-conſidered the matter, and thus ratifying her determination. " Take, my dear " Gabriel," ſays ſhe, " this ring, as a " pledge of my ſincerity, that while " *you* are living, as I have thought " proper to preſent you my *heart*, no " man elſe ſhall have my *hand*."—" I " take it, my dear Miſs Wildman," returned I, preſſing it with her hand to my lips, " as the beſt gift below " Heaven

" Heaven has to give; and if I prove
" unworthy of the gift, may I never
" know bliſs hereafter. I call you the
" moſt generous of women, as the dif-
" ference of my ſituation in life from
" your's, puts me at too great a diſ-
" tance to have any expectations."
" *Situation*, my dear Gabriel," replied ſhe, " is an idle term. On the foot-
" ing of nature, we are all equal; and
" if there are any circumſtances in the
" eye of the world, that raiſe one per-
" ſon above another, or diſtinguiſh
" individuals, it is a greater ſhare of
" moral virtue, or of mental or cor-
" poral endowments, given us by Pro-
" vidence and improved by art. You
" have to boaſt of theſe, and of courſe,
" are far before half the gentlemen I
" have the honour to know. In al-
" liances for life, to ſecure a com-
" petency, without which happineſs is
" merely ideal, it may be neceſſary to
" conſult intereſt, and pay ſome re-

" gard to fortune; but where there is " ſufficient property on one ſide to " enſure that competency, to look for " it on the other is mercenary and " covetous." By a plan ſettled between father and daughter, it has long been cuſtomary for parents to give out that they are able to give their girls a good fortune, ſpecifying a round ſum, and mean to do it. This acts as a decoy, and induces young men to come about them. If a young man is conſidered as a proper match, his viſits are received and encouraged, and the attention of Miſs in a very ſhort time wins his heart. From an idea that the young lady has a fortune equal to his expectations, he aſks her conſent. This is anſwered with, " I am highly " obliged to you for the compliment " you pay me, but perhaps you ex- " pect a fortune: if you do, you will " be diſappointed, for my father will " not part with a ſhilling while he " lives."

" lives."—" Fortune, my dear girl," the young man replies, fearful of not being thought diſintereſted, " is the " leaſt of my thoughts; you are a for- " tune of yourſelf, and I ſhould be " happy to have you without a gui- " nea." This being declared, he has Miſs's conſent to aſk her father, who affects to be much diſpleaſed with the propoſal, and will not acquieſce. What is to be done then? The young man, from this difficulty, is more enamoured than ever, propoſes a clandeſtine marriage, and importunes Miſs to give him her hand unknown to her father. The buſineſs is completed, and pains are taken with her parent to procure a reconciliation. This is with ſeeming reluctance complied with; but the marriage-portion cannot be mentioned. The huſband is obliged patiently to wait till the old man's death, and he then, though too late, finds himſelf diſappointed. The wife is upbraided,

but ſhe preſently makes her peace by ſaying, that ſhe had not deceived him, but had even told him before marriage what he was to expect.—Not ſo, my Eliza—" My father," ſays ſhe, " is able " to give me a fortune adequate to my " utmoſt wiſhes; and whenever the " time ſhall come, that I am in poſſeſ- " ſion of that, or you are in a ſituation " not to want it, you ſhall command " my *hand*, as you do now my *heart*."

Thus, in an endearing enjoyment of a reciprocity of affection, through the confidence of Charlotte, and the convenience of her room, did many days glide ſmoothly on. But after I had been in the family about ſix weeks, with a kind of terror in her countenance, Miſs Wildman brought me the following letter, which ſhe had received from Lord B.

" Thou moſt cruel of women,

" I have been long at a loſs to ac- " count for your indifference, but the

" cauſe

" cauſe I am now acquainted with,
" that of having a rival among your
" father's *ſervants*. I have too much
" pride to acquaint Mr. Wildman with
" the fact, but I ſhall watch the ſcoun-
" drel's motions, and remove him from
" you.

" Your injured

B—."

I ſmiled at the threat, and requeſted her to make herſelf eaſy under it, for as fear was no part of my compoſition, I ſhould be always upon my guard; but, if at any time I was betrayed by any of my fellow-ſervants, and prevented a night from ſleeping at home, ſhe ſhould hear immediately from me. She aſſured me, her alarm was not very great upon the occaſion, as ſhe conceived the letter to be a menace only; her greateſt unhappineſs was, that if any information had been given to him, through a ſuſpicion of the ſer-

vants, it might reach her father's ears through the ſame channel, and occaſion a great deal of unhappineſs; for though no man was more warm in his friendſhips, no one was more violent in his reſentments. Should ſuch a thing take place, I told her, whether I was in the houſe, or out of it, ſhe had my conſent to diſown it; and if I was called upon, I would do the ſame.

The alarm, however, cauſed me many an unquiet moment. I had too good an opinion of Charlotte to think *ſhe* would betray me, and I was not conſcious it was known to any other part of the family. Lord B. might poſſibly have heard that I was taken into the houſe, and his jealouſy might lead him to form a thouſand conceptions; and he might fix on this, in order to mortify Miſs Wildman's pride. However, from the tenor of the letter, and from what I heard at Mrs. Duplex's, I was determined to be prepared

pared for any violent attack, and therefore never went out afterwards, but with a tuck cane, and a brace of piſtols loaded.

The third day after Miſs Wildman had ſhewn me Lord B.'s letter, I was going out in the evening about ſix o'clock, in the month of October; and it was then juſt at the cloſe of day; I had on a blue ſurtout-coat with a red cape, and plain hat with gilt button and loop; and ſcarce had the porter opened the outer door, but I heard a voice ſay, "That's he." At this I rather drew back, and a man in a chairman's coat ran up the ſteps towards me, and, with a tuck in his hand, made an attempt to ſeize me; I ſtruck him upon the arm with my cane, and with my foot thruſt him down off the ſteps; at that inſtant I ſaw two men more making up to me, armed with bludgeons; one had nearly reached me, on which I took out one of

of my piſtols, and fired it, and, as I believe, killed him on the ſpot. I then turned round, in order to take ſhelter within the houſe, and found that the porter tried all he could to ſhut the door againſt me; I over-powered him, however, with ſtrength, forced my way in, bolted the door upon my enemy, and with the but end of my piſtol laid the porter flat upon the floor. All this took place in leſs time than I have been telling it. Finding myſelf ſo far ſafe, I ran backwards towards the ſtables, pulled off my ſurtout coat, that I might not be known, tore the button and loop from my hat, and made my eſcape into the Meuſe, in which our ſtables ſtood. As ſoon as I found myſelf at liberty, I puſhed away to a neighbouring ſtand of coaches, got into one, and bid the coachman drive me towards St. Giles's church. When I was out of the reach of any purſuit, I began to conſider what

what was proper to be done. Perfectly convinced from the porter's endeavouring to ſhut me out, that he muſt be a party concerned, I determined to write to my maſter, and beg him to ſtand my friend; and left a warrant ſhould be iſſued to apprehend me, to get off, the next morning, to ſome diſtance from London. When I was near the end of Oxford Road, I ordered the coachman to ſet me down, walked on about half a mile, went into a tavern, and wrote a letter, of which the following is a copy:

"SIR,

"I will not preface this letter with "its cauſe; ere this, you are too well "acquainted with it; I am ſafe at "preſent from any fear of danger or "of being apprehended. From a de-"claration of Lord B.'s at Mrs. Du-"plex's, ſince I had the honour of "being uſeful to Miſs Wildman, that "he would take an opportunity to be

"revenged

" revenged of me, and from ſome
" other circumſtances, I have reaſon
" to believe, that he way-laid me at
" your door; for, on my going out,
" a fellow in a chairman's coat, with a
" tuck in his hand, endeavoured to
" lay hold of me. I beat his arm
" down with my cane, and with my
" foot thruſt him from the ſteps; at
" this inſtant two more fellows with
" bludgeons endeavoured to lay vio-
" lent hands on me; the foremoſt I
" fired at, and poſſibly may have
" killed, for I ſaw him fall. Attempt-
" ing to return into the houſe, John,
" your porter, did all he could to pre-
" vent it, by forcing the door againſt
" me; I ſucceeded, however, contrary
" to his wiſhes, and from a conviction
" that he muſt, from ſuch conduct,
" have been privy to the deſign againſt
" me, I knocked the ſcoundrel down
" with my piſtol. If he lived to riſe
" again, you will probably, by having

" him

" him before a magiſtrate, come at the
" bottom of this dark affair; I truſt
" you will do it, not only in juſtice to
" yourſelf and the world, but to your
" unfortunate, but reſpectful humble
" ſervant,

" GABRIEL OUTCAST."

" P. S. Part of the fifty pounds you
" was pleaſed to give me is in my
" trunk in my room, which I beg
" leave to commit to your diſpoſal,
" having ſufficient money for my pre-
" ſent occaſions."

I thought of writing to Miſs Wildman, according to my promiſe; but dropped it, leſt my letter ſhould have been intercepted by her father; and as I knew ſhe would be made acquainted with my ſituation from what I had written to *him*, I walked into the Strand with this letter, and thence diſpatched a chairman with it to Berkley Square. This done, I found my mind

at

at eaſe, went into a coffee-houſe, got me ſome refreſhment, reconnoitred the depth of my purſe, which contained rather better than three guineas, and went out about ten o'clock in queſt of a lodging; which, in order to elude all ſearch, I determined ſhould be in one of thoſe houſes, in the narrow part of St. Giles's, where vagrants are taken in at two-pence a night. I ſoon found out ſuch a lodging, and that my dreſs might create no ſuſpicion, I turned my coat wrong-ſide outwards, looſened the knees of my breeches, ſlouched my hat, rolled myſelf in the kennel, and affected to be in liquor. It anſwered all the purpoſes I wiſhed, and I was ſhewn up to a bed, without ſheets, where ſome poor wretch was already lain and faſt aſleep. I was no ſooner in the room, than the man, who ſhewed me up ſtairs, aſked me for two-pence for my lodging, locked the door upon me, and told me, when I roſe

roſe and choſe to be let out, to ring the bell. He left me no candle, and all the light I had was from a lamp on the ſtair-caſe, that gave light within the room, by a little window over the door. I could not find out by that light what kind of a perſon my bed-fellow was, but I examined his clothes, and, by the beſt conjecture I could make, ſuppoſed him to be a labouring man. His breeches were leather, but exceedingly greaſy, and neither ſtrings nor buckles at the knees; his waiſt-coat had been ſcarlet, but it had but one flap and four buttons, and his coat was originally what is called a thickſet, but out at the eldows: his hat round, but grown brown with age, and his ſtockings blue worſted, but full of darns; they were, however, tolerably well mended and pretty clean. I tried on the coat and waiſt-coat, and found they fitted me well enough. The reader will perhaps wonder

wonder at all this; but, when I tell him my deſign, he will wonder no longer. My plan was to riſe before he waked and change clothes with him, that I might get into the country, in ſuch diſguiſe without fear of interruption. As I was not much diſpoſed for ſleep, I ſurveyed my room, and found the furniture conſiſted of a broken chair or two, a table with three legs, an old ſtove in the fireplace, with a ſhovel and poker chained to the chimney, perhaps, leſt a lodger ſhould be pleaſed to make free with them; and leſt we ſhould carry away the blankets, was the reaſon, I preſume, of our being locked in. Bad as the bed was, I laid me down upon it, but could not get a wink of ſleep; therefore, when I heard the watchman cry Four, my companion being ſtill ſnoring, I dreſſed myſelf in his clothes, except his ſhoes, and inſtead of four-pence halfpenny and a little tobacco

tobacco which I found in his pocket, I left the poor devil half a crown, and flattered myſelf he would not be unhappy at the change; for though diſtreſſed at my own ſituation, could not but feel for his. I next cut my hair ſhort in the poll, with a knife I had in my pocket, and pulled it over my forehead; and could I have ſeen myſelf, I have no doubt but I ſhould have ſtarted at my own figure. When completely dreſſed, I rung the bell, and was let out, the chamberlain turning the key upon the man I had left aſleep. The fellow ſaid nothing to me, nor I to him, and I walked off as compoſed as if I had nothing to trouble me.

It being rather a cold morning, I walked haſtily towards Hyde-Park corner, without any thing about me of value, except, my piſtols, my cane, my buckles, my ring, my ſhirt, and my

my pocket handkerchief, and about three pounds in money. I was presently overtaken by the Exeter coach, and got up into the baſket.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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ERRATA IN THIS VOLUME.

Page 18. line 16. *for* broter, *read* brother.
—— 68. laſt line, *for* lays in, *read* lies in.
—— 70. line 13. *for* lay, *read* lie.
—— 104 —— 7. *for* him, *read* them.
—— 127. —— 18. *for* to Oxford, *read* from Oxford.